FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-151
Monday
9 August 1993

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-151 CONTENTS *9 August 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, 'Urayqat Reportedly Resign *[AFP]* 1
Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Refuse To Comment on Reports *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
  'Ashrawi on Draft Proposal *[Amman TV]* 1
  Al-Husayni on Tunis Meeting *[Tunis TV]* 1
Resignations Said Linked To Rejection of U.S. Paper 2
  Internal Conflict Also Blamed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 2
  'Abd-al-Shafi Confirms Resignations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
  Says Not Considering Own Resignation *[Amman TV]* 2
Resignation Reports Called 'Premature,' 'Gossip' 3
  Abu-Zayyad: Differences Under Discussion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
  Abu-Sharif: Tunis Meeting Not Unusual *[Cairo International]* 4
  Denies Resignation Reports *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
'Text' of Palestinian Paper on Peace Goals *[Al-DUSTUR 8 Aug]* 6
  Report Views Amendments *[JORDAN TIMES 9 Aug]* 7
  Further on Document *[AFP]* 8
Sha'th on Future Authority in Jericho, Gaza *[MENA]* 9
  Views Peace Prospects, Recognition of PLO *[MENA]* 9
  Foresees PLO Leaders Joining Talks *[Sanaa VOP]* 10
'Arafat Adviser: 'Arafat-Rabin Talks 'Soon' *[MENA]* 10
'Abbas Claims To Have Met Israel's Sarid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
Newspaper Views Role of Abu-Mazin Group in Talks *['AL HAMISHMAR 6 Aug]* 11
'Urayqat Terms U.S., Israeli Proposals 'Carbon Copy' *[AL-QUDS 6 Aug]* 12
  Reviews Talks With Christopher *[Cairo International]* 13
Al-Nashashibi on Christopher Meetings, U.S. Document *[Cairo International]* 15
Christopher Leaves Peace Process With 'Question Marks' *[Algiers VOP]* 15
Ten Factions Criticize Motives of Christopher Tour *[Al-Quds Palestinian Radio]* 16
PNC Official on Meeting With Factions in Syria *[AL-RA'Y 7 Aug]* 17
People's Party Leader: Factional Differences Natural *[AL-RA'Y 8 Aug]* 17

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

34 Islamists Sentenced To Death 7 Aug *[Paris International]* 18
Premier's Office on Organization of Economic Conference *[Algiers TV]* 18

Egypt

Extremist Group: Killings in Retaliation for Hangings *[AFP]* 18
Officers Club Attacked; Policeman Injured *[MENA]* 18
Al-Baz on Peace Process, Extremist Violence *[Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA 1 Aug]* 18
Foreign Minister: Progress in Peace Talks Possible *[MENA]* 20
Commentary Urges Cohesion in Palestinian Ranks *[Cairo Radio]* 20
Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From Saudi King *[Cairo Radio]* 20

Libya

Sudanese Revolution Command Member Arrives in Tripoli *[JANA]* 20
Military Adviser to Chad President Arrives in Tripoli *[JANA]* 21

Mauritania

President Taya Returns From France After 23 Days *[Libreville Radio]* 21

Morocco

King Hassan Issues Message on Privatization *[Rabat TV]* 21
MAP, Yemeni News Agency Sign Exchange Accord *[MAP]* 22

Sudan

'Heavy Fighting' Reported Between Government, SPLA Forces *[AFP]* 22
    Further Reportage on Fighting *[London International]* 22
Government, Rebel Delegations Meet in Upper Nile State *[Omdurman Radio]* 23
Foreign Minister, UN Envoy Discuss Relief Operations *[SUNA]* 23
Spokesman Denies State Gives Refuge to Terrorists *[SUNA]* 24

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Defense Minister To Sign Defense Pact With Russia *[SPA]* 25
British Envoy Denies Commissions Paid on Warrior Deal *[KUNA]* 25
Official Views Tighter U.S. Controls on Passports *[KUNA* 25

Qatar

Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan Pays Two-Day Visit 25
    Engages in Official Talks 8 Aug *[Amman Radio]* 25
    Holds News Conference *[Amman TV]* 26

Yemen

Five-Party 'National Opposition Bloc' Formed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Aug]* 28

IRAQ

Saddam Address on Anniversary of War With Iran *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
    Cabinet Congratulates Saddam *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Russian Federation Minister Wraps Up Four-Day Visit 33
    Expresses Interest in Cooperation *[INA]* 33
    Signs Agreements, Departs *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
    BABIL Criticizes Russian Stance *[INA]* 33
Opposition Group Claims Responsibility for Baghdad Blast *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 34
    Further on Organization's Claim *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 34
Rebel Radio on Anti-Regime Leaflets, AL-NABA' Paper *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 34
Kurdish Authorities Shut Down PKK-Affiliated Paper *[AFP]* 34
'Secret' Publication Urges Saddam's Overthrow *[KUNA]* 35
Daily Asserts Kuwait's 'Unquestionable' Iraqi Identity *[INA]* 35

ISRAEL

- Reaction to Reported Talks Delegation Resignations ... 36
  - Rabin: Decision 'None of My Business' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 36
  - Peres: Crisis May Benefit Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 36
  - Beilin on Implications of Resignations *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 36
  - Rubinstein Advocates Noninterference *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
  - Ministers Call Resignations Regrettable *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 38
  - Parties Comment on PLO-Delegation Crisis *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 38
- Commentary Analyzes PLO, Delegation Differences *['AL HAMISHMAR 9 Aug]* ... 39
- Sarid Trying To Convince Rabin To Upgrade Talks *[HA'ARETZ 6 Aug]* ... 39
  - Says Peace Process Advancing *[TEL AVIV 6 Aug]* ... 40
- UN Envoy Comments on Peace Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 40
- Secret Contacts With PLO Said Initiated in 1985 *[HA'ARETZ 8 Aug]* ... 42
- Rabinovich Denies al-Asad-Rabin Meeting Report *[Tel Aviv TV]* ... 42
- Commentary Views Progress in Talks With Syria *[HA'ARETZ 8 Aug]* ... 43
- 'Terrorists' Kill IDF Soldiers at Outpost *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 44
  - Hamas Claims Responsibility for Murders *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 44
- General: No Link Between Murder, Lebanon Action *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 45
- Meretz, Opposition Parties React to Recent Attacks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* ... 45
- Deputy Minister Gur Expects Wave of Terrorist Attacks *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 45
- Lubrani on Operation Accountability *[DAVAR 6 Aug]* ... 46

JORDAN

- No 'Breakthrough' Seen in Christopher Tour *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Aug]* ... 47
- U.S. Said Concerned at Impact of al-'Aqaba Searches *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Aug]* ... 47
- Jordanian-Palestinian Committee To Meet *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Aug]* ... 48
- Israeli, Jordanian Teams Reportedly Map Joint Border *[AL-BAYAN 29 Jul]* ... 48
- Hasan's Qatar Visit Termed 'Great Diplomatic Achievement' *[AL-DUSTUR 9 Aug]* ... 48
- Al-Majali Reviews Economic, Political Policy *[Amman TV]* ... 49
- Government To Ensure 'Fair, Unbiased' Elections *[Amman Radio]* ... 51
- Minister Discusses Electoral Preparations *[Amman Radio]* ... 51
- 'New Interpretation' of Election Law Possible *[JORDAN TIMES 8 Aug]* ... 52
- Information Ministry Approves New Newspaper *[JORDAN TIMES 7 Aug]* ... 53

LEBANON

- Dallul Leaves for Damascus Talks on Army Deployment *[VOL]* ... 54
- Army Deploys Inside UNIFIL Operations Area *[MENA]* ... 54
  - Army Deployment Said Completed *[RFL]* ... 54
  - Foreign Minister Comments *[RFL]* ... 54
  - Hizballah Hails Move *[VOM]* ... 55
- Hizballah Message to People Thanks Syria, Iran *[Voice of the Oppressed]* ... 55
- Hizballah's Nasrallah Outlines Principles *[Voice of the Oppressed]* ... 56
- 'Abbas Hammadi Arrives in Beirut From Germany *[VOL]* ... 57
- Fadlallah Criticizes Christopher's 'Political War' *[VOL]* ... 57
- 'Hundreds' in South Protest Katyusha Rocket Attacks *[AFP]* ... 57
- Junblatt Calls for Peace With Israel *[VOM]* ... 57
- SLA's Lahd Appeals to Syria To 'Control' Hizballah *[Voice of the South]* ... 58
- Ex-Envoy to U.S. Reportedly Warned of Israeli Attack *[AL-HAYAH 6 Aug]* ... 59
- Ireland's Dempsey Arrives To Inspect UN Contingent *[Beirut Radio]* ... 60

SYRIA

- Al-Shar', Christopher Hold Joint News Conference *[Damascus Radio]* ... 61
- Public Israeli Commitment on Withdrawal Sought *[Damascus Radio]* ... 61
- Arabs Said Still 'Skeptical' About Fair U.S. Role *[Damascus Radio]* ... 62
- Army Chief Addresses Military Academy Graduates *[Damascus Radio]* ... 63

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Foreign Minister Returns From Pakistan *[Kabul Radio]* 64
- Foreign Minister To Hold Talks With Tajiks *[THE NEWS 6 Aug]* 64
  - More on Planned Visit to Dushanbe *[AFP]* 64

India

- Bomb Blast Kills Southern State Legislator *[Delhi Radio]* 65
- Bomb Blast at Right Wing Party Office Kills 9 *[Delhi Radio]* 65
- Twenty Killed in Suspected NSCN Attack in Manipur *[Delhi Radio]* 65
- Romanian Parliamentary Delegation Visits 65
  - 'More Interaction' Needed *[Delhi TV]* 65
  - Legislative Ties Discussed *[ROMPRES]* 65
  - Prime Minister Receives Delegates *[Delhi TV]* 66

Iran

- Rafsanjani's New Cabinet Selections Announced *[Tehran Radio]* 66
- Jannati Delivers Tehran Friday Prayer Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 66
  - Second Friday Prayer Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 67
- Nateq-Nuri Assails UN Secretary General in Majles Speech *[Tehran International]* 67
- 'Severe Protest' of U.S. Warship Activity Issued *[IRNA]* 68
- Commentary on Implications of Christopher Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 68
- Kurdish 'Insurgents' Warned of 'Decisive Response' *[Tehran Radio]* 69
- Iraq Incursion To 'Preserve Border Security' *[Tehran TV]* 69
  - Further on Cross-Border Raid *[IRNA]* 70
- Official on 'Deplorable' Conditions in South Iraq *[Tehran Radio]* 70
- Tehran Confirms Delivery of Second Submarine From Moscow *[AFP]* 70
- Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives *[IRNA]* 71
  - Kuwait To Redress 'Past Position' *[IRNA]* 71

Pakistan

- Forces on 'Red Alert' To Head Off Sabotage *[THE NEWS 6 Aug]* 71
- Kausar Niazi Rejoins PPP; Bhutto Outlines Policies *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
- Election Commission Rules on Dates *[Islamabad TV]* 72

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, 'Urayqat Reportedly Resign

NC0908104093 Paris AFP in English 1029 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 9 (AFP)—Three key members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks have submitted their resignations to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, a delegation source said Monday [9 August].

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian peace team, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi and deputy head of the bilateral delegation Sa'ib 'Urayqat submitted their resignations at a PLO meeting in Tunis on Sunday.

"They resigned," the source said. "They were determined to do so despite attempts to make them change their minds."

The three have objected to 'Arafat's moderate stance over an interim autonomy deal for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Refuse To Comment on Reports

JN0808140993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Three Palestinian leaders have left Amman for Tunis amidst speculation about their intention to resign as a result of differences with the PLO leadership in Tunis.

Chief Delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has confirmed reports on the resignation of Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat. However, the three officials refused to confirm or deny these reports. Prior to departing Amman for Tunis, they noted that they are leaving for Tunis to submit a report to the PLO leadership about their talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem.

'Ashrawi said: We will exchange information and opinions with the PLO leadership, and work with it for the sake of determining the steps we will take in the future.

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has said that the delegation submitted to Christopher the paper to which amendments were introduced and accepted by the PLO leadership.

'Ashrawi on Draft Proposal

JN0808190593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the peace talks has left Amman for Tunis. The delegation includes Faysal al-Husayni, the head the negotiating team; Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the deputy chief of the Palestinian delegation; and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation.

'Ashrawi said the Palestinian negotiators will hold extensive consultations with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. She told our correspondent:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] There is one Palestinian paper. This paper was presented officially to Secretary Christopher in Jerusalem at the instructions of the Palestinian leadership.

[Correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] Then there is no difference between the Palestinian delegation and the PLO in this context?

['Ashrawi] When we reach a decision or when the leadership reaches a decision, this takes place after consultations, studies, and internal work. This is in fact what has taken place.

[Dhiyab] Is there a difference between the first Palestinian paper and second paper that was presented to the U.S. secretary? What are the most different points?

['Ashrawi] One paper was presented during this tour. The paper is based on the Palestinian constants that were presented in the draft declaration of principles in the past. There is no difference in the basic Palestinian position and constants.

[Dhiyab] What do you expect during the next stage, in general, after the U.S. secretary's visit?

['Ashrawi] We are facing a very difficult stage that showed a defect in the peace process, as well as the importance of remedying this defect, changing the course of matters, and dealing with the process in a different manner. Therefore, we will go to Tunis to consult with the leadership, to present a report on this tour, to assess the peace process, and to discuss the role and positions of the other parties. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on Tunis Meeting

LD0808204893 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpts] We start tonight's news with the event that has been highlighted on the international level. [passage omitted]

The three members arrived this evening in Tunisia and did not make any comment on the resignation, stressing that they have come to consult with the PLO leadership over the future of the peace process. More details in this report:

[Unidentified correspondent] [Passage omitted] The news correspondent met with Faysal al-Husayni in a quick interview. He did not comment on the news of the resignation, nor did he confirm or deny it. Instead, he focused on the issue of consultation with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] As a matter of fact, we have come here in order to submit a report on the meetings that have taken place and present an assessment and study the outcome of this tour, and what might happen in the future.

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you evaluate your meeting with the U.S. secretary of state?

[Al-Husayni] I think that this is what we are going to discuss inside the Palestinian meetings and prefer to stop at this point. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] This document will constitute a base for the meeting between the Palestinian leadership and the members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Tunisia. [end recording]

Resignations Said Linked To Rejection of U.S. Paper

Internal Conflict Also Blamed

TA0808074793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] A dramatic development within the Palestinian peace delegation: Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat have resigned from the delegation. The three have submitted their resignation to the PLO leadership in Tunis and departed this morning to Tunis via Amman to explain their decision. The PLO leadership will apparently make efforts to convince them to withdraw the resignation.

Palestinian sources in Jerusalem say that the reason for the resignation is the refusal of the PLO leadership to accept the U.S. document of principles, which was submitted to the delegation a few weeks ago. The three demanded that the PLO leadership accept this document, instead of which they received from Tunis a new document, which was submitted to the U.S. secretary of state in Jerusalem last week.

Other likely reasons for the resignation are the internal conflicts within the delegation, including the conflict with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who boycotted the talks with Christopher, as well as moves that they claim were aimed at bringing about a direct dialogue between the Israeli Government and the PLO leadership in Tunis.

The Palestinian sources believe that the PLO leaders in Tunis will eventually convince the three to withdraw their resignation. In any event this move will cause shock waves within the PLO leadership in Tunis, as well as within the Palestinian delegation.

'Abd-al-Shafi Confirms Resignations

TA0808071293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, this morning confirmed to our correspondent Moti Amir that the three delegation heads—Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat—left for Tunis in order to submit their resignation to the PLO leadership. The three left this morning via the Allenby Bridge to Amman on their way to Tunis. Sources in East Jerusalem told our correspondent Moti Amir that the three decided to resign in consultations held with the delegation members over the weekend, in the wake of the exacerbation in the differences of opinion between them and the PLO leadership. This exacerbation was expressed during Secretary of State Christopher's visit in our region. Contrary to the PLO directives, the Palestinian leaders presented more extreme positions than those of the organization, and even submitted to the U.S. secretary of state a Palestinian document of principles, contrary to the directive of the PLO leadership to agree to almost all the points in the U.S. document of principles.

Says Not Considering Own Resignation

JN0808175093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the delegation to the peace talks, by correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab in Amman on 8 August—recorded]

[Text] [Dhiyab] What is the story behind the differences between the Palestinian delegation and the Palestinian leadership?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There are no serious differences, but it is natural that there are various opinions and differences in viewpoints. In fact, the paper that was received from the leadership was discussed, and some amendments were introduced to its wording and were presented.

[Dhiyab] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, are you going to Tunis to tender your resignations or to consult?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Not at all. It has never crossed my mind, personally, to tender my resignation. I don't think that the things that are going on should stir up personal motives. We are committed to a process that concerns our future—the Palestinian future—and we are dealing with it in this manner. We are leaving for Tunis to review what has happened and to emphasize the unity of the Palestinian fold.

Resignation Reports Called 'Premature,' 'Gossip'

Abu-Zayyad: Differences Under Discussion

TA0808112493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, adviser to the delegation to the peace talks, by Gid'on Zelinger—live]

[Text] [Zelinger] It must be a hard day for the delegation, perhaps for the Palestinians as well.

[Abu-Zayyad] A hard day.

[Zelinger] Who will replace al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi?

[Abu-Zayyad] Nobody.

[Zelinger] Meaning what?

[Abu-Zayyad] Meaning that it is not yet a fact that 'Ashrawi, al-Husayni, and the others will resign. I think the talk of a resignation is premature. We have a problem; we are discussing it, and I hope we will solve it.

[Zelinger] Tell us about the arguments among the Palestinians. What do you mean by a problem?

[Abu-Zayyad] I mean that the delegation inside the occupied territories is only able to see a limited picture and to come up with limited results. When the situation demands national, historic decisions, this delegation cannot assume the responsibility. These decisions must be made by the acknowledged, legitimate leadership that has been empowered by the Palestinians people, namely, the PLO.

[Zelinger] You mean the problem is where the decisions should be made, and not any factual ideological argument about principles.

[Abu-Zayyad] No, no, the argument is indeed factual and revolves around a principle. It revolves around the document submitted to Christopher during his last visit to the region.

[Zelinger] You speak of one document, but we know, or we think that we know, of the existence of two.

[Abu-Zayyad] No, there was one document in which a few amendments or modifications were introduced. Despite the modifications introduced in the document, the delegates did not find the document suitable. I imagine the delegates inside the occupied territories are unable to see the overall picture. We resemble the man who cannot see the forest through the trees. We do not have an overall strategy for either the region or the problem, but those in Tunis, the leaders, are able to see the situation in a broader, more general way. In addition, I assume they have access to broader information than the delegates.

[Zelinger] What you are in fact suggesting is that Israel should start getting used to the idea that Tunis is the address. You are reminding us that the landlord lives there, not here.

[Abu-Zayyad] It is a fact. It is a fact that the landlord lives there, not here, and it is likewise a fact that if Israel reaches a point where it has to sign an agreement, it will have to sign it with the PLO. In my opinion, the distance should be cut short. Instead of stretching their arm all the way around their head to reach an ear and exclaim: This is my ear, they should grab that ear directly. Instead of talking with the delegation, which then talks with Tunis-....[pauses] We constantly hear Israeli figures, including ministers and other senior people, saying on Israeli radio and television that the delegation's instructions come from Tunis. Then if everyone knows it and agrees that the delegation receives its instructions from Tunis, why shouldn't they talk directly to Tunis? That would condense the process, save time, and allow us to reach an agreement more rapidly than we have been able to so far.

[Zelinger] But is there any chance that PLO-Tunis will change, that it will disavow terror and its demand for the right of return and Jerusalem?

[Abu-Zayyad] Listen, you people are constantly telling yourselves that the PLO equals terror. The PLO is the Palestinian people's national leadership.

[Zelinger] Ziyad, perhaps you can tell us who is behind the terrorist attacks perpetrated in the territories over the weekend.

[Abu-Zayyad] The situation in the territories is behind the terrorist attacks. Continued occupation, an unchanging situation is the true reason for the recent attacks in which, I am very sorry to say, people lost their lives.

[Zelinger] Who is behind these attacks? Is it the PLO?

[Abu-Zayyad] No, it is the situation. The situation, the occupation is responsible. Both sides are victims of the occupation. Therefore, to have no more victims, we have to put an end to occupation. My pointing a finger at X, Y, or Z as the parties responsible for the attacks will help no one. What I am saying is that the situation is abnormal, unbearable. There is occupation, there is oppression, which should end so that people can live in peace and mutual respect.

[Zelinger] Can you describe briefly the mood in the territories in the wake of Christopher's visit?

[Abu-Zayyad] The mood in the territories is one of extreme dejection. It was that way before and it still is after Christopher's visit. People are losing their faith in the peace process, in the delegation's ability to end their suffering. As long as we are unable to bring about substantial progress in the talks and give the Palestinian people peace, security, and respect, the street may go its own way.

[Zelinger] To return to the start of our conversation: The resignation of al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and 'Urayqat is then not final at all.

[Abu-Zayyad] It was not a resignation. The delegates went to Tunis to discuss the situation with our leadership and to reach a certain overview of the situation in the region. If they reach a harmonious approach, if there is accord as to the next moves, there will be no resignation. If there is no harmonious approach, it will depend on the Tunis leadership's decision.

[Zelinger] We will know more in a day or two. We will remind our listeners that you are, Ziyad, are an adviser to the Palestinian delegation. Thank you very much.

Abu-Sharif: Tunis Meeting Not Unusual

NC0908080093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, in Tunis, conducted by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program on 9 August—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif, how true are these reports about resignations being submitted by Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi?

[Abu-Sharif] Actually, we know nothing about the reports carried by the news agencies citing a Jerusalem paper. However, it is very natural that when the delegation meets with the other parties to the peace talks, especially the American side, it comes to Tunis afterwards for deliberations with the Palestinian leadership on the results of these meetings and a future plan of action. Since U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Jerusalem and held talks with our negotiating delegation, a number of delegation members have arrived in Tunis to discuss the results of the talks and future plans with the Palestinian leadership.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Abu-Sharif, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi made a statement that the resignations of the three members in the Palestinian delegation were presented because of the differences between the PLO and the negotiating Palestinian side.

[Abu-Sharif] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is a Palestinian struggler for whom we have great respect. In a personal decision, he boycotted the talks with Warren Christopher. We respect his stance. Palestinian democracy, which as you know is a broad democracy, provides the opportunity for members to take positions in accordance with their convictions. However, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who will come to Tunis to meet with the rest of his brothers in the Palestinian leadership, can present his opinion about the Palestinian leadership. However, no one can impose his personal opinion on others. We act in accordance with a clear stance: The decision of the majority is the final decision. The minority, whose viewpoint we respect, has the right to express its opinion but it cannot impose its opinion on the majority. Therefore, we believe that discussions in Tunis will be important, serious, and deep. They will not be what news reports and rumors have been saying about them, but will be influenced by this sensitive and important stage in the talks. The peace process has now reached the stage of actual implementation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, what are the true motives behind Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's boycott of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit?

[Abu-Sharif] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi expresses the conscience of the Palestinians. The Palestinians feel great frustration at the United States' use of double standards in implementing UN Security Council resolutions. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is expressing what I, Yasir 'Arafat, and every Palestinian feels. We are not happy with the U.S. Administration. We believe the U.S. Administration continues to apply double standards in implementing international legitimacy resolutions. Resolutions 242 and 338 mean ending the occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. We see the United States waging a war together with its allies to end the occupation of Kuwait. But at the same time we see it retreating when the issue pertains to Israel's occupation of the Arab territories. We all feel this frustration. However, different people deal with the same situation in different ways.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could we say that the ball is now in the American court?

['Abu-Sharif] Not only in the American court. The ball is now in Rabin's personal court. There is a majority in the Israeli government who believes that direct talks with the PLO and its leadership is the only way. However, Rabin is personally hindering such direct contacts. The ball is also in the court of the U.S. Administration, which continues to apply double standards when addressing this issue. We are not negotiating from a position of weakness but of strength. If the U.S. Administration and Rabin do not adhere to the course agreed upon in the letter of invitation to the peace talks and the letter of guarantees, the Palestinians have other methods.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, it is worth noting here that the differences—or actually reports about the presence of differences between some members of the Palestinian delegation and the leadership in Tunis—came after Warren Christopher's visit...

[Abu-Sharif, interrupting] Ashraf, this is something normal, very normal. The Palestinian leadership is in Tunis and the negotiating delegation is in Jerusalem. Israel refuses to meet with the PLO leadership and deals with the negotiating delegation. The United States freezes its relations with the PLO and deals with the negotiating delegation. What do people expect from that? The negotiating delegation is appointed by the PLO leadership. It has its own viewpoints, a policy in line with democratic practice. The PLO leadership expresses its own viewpoint. But we need time because this is a matter of logistics. There are many viewpoints and we can discuss things, reach understandings, and amend various points. This is natural. It is something very natural in Palestinian democracy for the negotiating delegation to discuss with the leadership its opinions regarding talks with the Americans or other parties. We are not afraid of it, nor do we consider it dangerous. It is natural, pure and simple. In democracy there are various views that we discuss and then we can reach the final form of the Palestinian viewpoint.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Therefore, to end this dialogue, can we conclude that reports about the resignation of a number of members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks are not true?

[Abu-Sharif] I can tell you frankly and clearly that we have not heard from any member of the concerned Palestinian delegation the word resignation. Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat said at Amman airport that they are going to Tunis to discuss the results of their talks with Warren Christopher and plans for future action.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, we thank you very much for this interview and always welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

[Abu-Sharif] I thank you.

Denies Resignation Reports

JN0908133093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Faridah al-Shubashi and Kamal Kamil; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Mr. Bassam, how true is the talk about the Palestinian leadership making substantial concessions, particularly concerning Jerusalem and the territorial jurisdiction of the occupied territories?

[Abu-Sharif] The Palestinian leadership is committed to the Palestinian stand that insists on applying [UN Security Council Resolution] 242 to all the territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and on the territorial integrity of the Gaza Strip and West Bank. We take into consideration that there are two phases—the transition phase and the final phase, which are closely linked. There are issues that will be discussed concerning the transition issue, and there are issues that will be discussed concerning the final status stage. However, there will be no concessions over the termination of the Israeli occupation of all the territories occupied in 1967. There will be no concessions on the Palestinian people's full sovereignty over all their territories.

[Kamil] It has been said two Palestinian documents have been submitted to Christopher; one prepared by the PLO leadership and submitted to Christopher by the Egyptian side, and another one that is somewhat different that was submitted by the Palestinian delegation in occupied Jerusalem. Is true that two different documents were submitted to Christopher?

[Abu-Sharif] As usual, when a document is drafted, in order to be submitted to the U.S. side, the delegation discusses some of its clauses and wording. Amendments are then introduced to the original draft paper prepared by the Palestinian leadership. Eventually, the final paper becomes the one discussed by the leadership and the negotiating delegation. Of course, such papers are amended in light of the discussion held among all parties, particularly when an Arab side discusses with a U.S. side the means to overcome some obstacles to facilitate the peace process. The paper the Palestinian delegation submitted to Warren Christopher is the outcome of this process of research, amendment, and examination of the basic Palestinian plan.

[Al-Shubashi] Is the Palestinian leadership particularly careful about not creating a gap between it and the Palestinians in the occupied territories?

[Abu-Sharif] Of course, the PLO leadership is the leadership of the Palestinian people. It is natural that contacts are close and intense in order to avoid such a gap, which, if created, will be bridged easily. It is not impossible for such gaps to be created, especially because the leadership is in Tunis and the negotiating delegation is in Jerusalem. However, there is always understanding, agreement, and abidance by the PLO policy.

[Al-Shubashi] How do you see Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that the Palestinian ranks are currently overwhelmed by confusion?

[Abu-Sharif] We have one answer for Mr. Rabin: Let him take a step forward in order to meet with the PLO leadership. Our ranks are in agreement and the overwhelming majority is for making peace. What is obstructing peace is Mr. Rabin's position.

[Kamil] One last question: Do you think the Palestinian delegation or the three negotiators—Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Hanan 'Ashrawi—will really tender their resignations?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not think so.

[Kamil] What is the inclination in Tunis now?

[Abu-Sharif] Thus far, none of them have spoken about a possible resignation. This is press gossip. The delegation is here for talks as usual. I do not think the subject of resignation is conceivable.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you, Bassam Abu-Sharif.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you.

'Text' of Palestinian Paper on Peace Goals

JN0808172893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
8 Aug 93 pp 28, 24

["Full text" of the paper delivered to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 5 August, 1993]

[Text] The Palestinian and Israeli sides reaffirm their commitment to the peace process launched in Madrid. They seek to negotiate about their differences and create a peaceful and just future in which Israelis and Palestinians will live side by side in peace. The two sides will negotiate a declaration of principles to guide the negotiations on an interim self-government authority.

The Goal of the Negotiations

The two sides agree that the objective of the peace process is to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace settlement achieved through direct negotiations based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

These negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides will be conducted, per the Madrid letter of invitation, in two phases. The first phase of the negotiations is to reach an agreement on a Palestinian interim self-government authority. The second phase, which will start no later than the beginning of the third year of the interim self government arrangement, will be directed toward reaching agreement on government status. This agreement will implement Resolutions 242 and 338 in all their aspects.

The two sides agree that the negotiations are one process and that the two phases are interlinked. They also agree that neither the talks nor the agreements reached over the interim period, nor anything in the talks on self-rule, will be a substitute for the outcome of the talks on the final status. Furthermore, both sides will exert every effort to avert any developments before or during the interim period that may harm the climate of the negotiations.

The two sides agree that all options for the final status—based on the provisions and principles on which the negotiations were launched, that is Resolutions 242 and 338—will remain open. During the negotiations, each party can raise any issue it likes, and the agenda for the negotiations on the final status must include the final status of Jerusalem.

The Nature of the Elected Palestinian Self-Rule Authority

The two sides agree that the elected Palestinian self-rule government will be formed through free, fair, and direct general elections to be held under agreed international supervision in the presence of international supervisors and observers. Negotiations will be held to set the terms and schedule for the elections. Once the two sides reach an agreement on the terms for the elections, the East Jerusalem Palestinians will participate in the elections, as will the Palestinians and their children and grandchildren in the West Bank—including Jerusalem—and the Gaza Strip, which were not under Israeli occupation prior to 4 June, 1967.

The elected Palestinian authority will enjoy the powers and responsibilities necessary for the implementation of the authority devolved to it under the agreement. It will take charge of the executive and legislative powers in the areas where responsibility has been transferred to it. Independent judiciary and legislative bodies will be appointed by the Palestinian interim self-rule authority. Legislation in the areas that have not come under the powers of the interim Palestinian self-rule authority will be appropriately reviewed.

The two sides agree that one of the objectives of the self-rule period is the transfer of power to Palestinians. The responsibilities of the Israeli civil administration will be transferred to the Palestinians. This process will bring about a fundamental change in the current situation, both on the ground and in the relationship between the Israelis and Palestinians. An important outcome of this phase will be the empowerment of Palestinians through the establishment of a self-rule authority, which will give the Palestinians real control over the decisions affecting their lives and fate. This phase will also lay the groundwork for putting an end to the confrontation between the Israelis and Palestinians and create a relationship of mutual respect based on tolerance, peace, and reconciliation in which both sides avoid violence.

The two sides agree to negotiate over local authority that has to do with the self-rule period, which begins from the first of the issues related to the exercise of sovereignty, outside the framework of the self-rule authority. [sentence as published] Hence, if nothing agreed concerning the authority in the interim period prejudicing the outcome of the negotiations over the final status. [sentence as published]

Both sets of negotiations have the objective of implementing Resolutions 242 and 338, as does the self-rule period. The Palestinian interim self-rule authority will have local control over the occupied Palestinian territories that were not under Israeli occupation before 4 June, 1967, including Jerusalem. The two sides agree that these territories constitute an integral whole that will retain their unity and integrity during the self-rule under a single legal system.

Public Security

The Israeli and Palestinian sides agree that the security of both sides must be respected as a result of the negotiating process. The objective of the security arrangements, during the self-rule period, is to respond to mutual needs, as well as to create the conditions for a genuine peace. There will be arrangements to enforce internal and external security and public order during the self-rule period, taking into consideration the security needs of both sides.

The Palestinian self-rule authority will set up appropriate security arrangements to maintain internal security and public order through a security force in charge of internal and external security, specifically in relation to bridges and border crossings. Security arrangements should be under the control of the Palestinian self-rule authority, except that which is outside the agreement. The agreement will take into consideration issues related to border crossings and the movement of people and goods.

The withdrawal of Israeli forces will begin during the self-rule period in line with an agreed timeframe. The Israeli Army will withdraw from the populated areas and redeploy in agreed security areas.

Cooperation and Coordination

The two sides will finalize agreements and establish arrangements for cooperation and coordination in specific areas of mutual and common concern. These common areas of cooperation and coordination will take into account the needs of both sides. The two sides will establish a joint committee to consider and deal with matters of common concern and to resolve problems that may arise between them. Any problems the two sides fail to resolve bilaterally will be referred to international arbitration or to agreed committees.

Implementing Mechanism

The Palestinian and Israeli sides seek the early completion of the declaration of principles and a complete agreement about the interim Palestinian self-rule. Toward this end, the two sides will agree on a timetable and the mechanism for choosing the Palestinian interim self-rule authority.

The Gaza-Jericho Option

"The Gaza-Jericho First" option will, as a form of disengagement, create a breakthrough in the negotiations and on the ground. This first step will provide a realistic and workable formula for transferring full power to the Palestinians, in the meantime stressing the unity of the occupied territories that must remain an integrated unit.

Report Views Amendments

JN0908110293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Aug 93 pp 1,6

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpt] Amman—Disarray in Palestinian ranks over what negotiators see as unilateral decisions and lack of consultations by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership burst out into the open Sunday [8 August], with three prominent delegates threatening to resign.

The three, overall delegation leader Faysal al-Husayni, negotiator Sa'ib 'Uraygat and spokesperson Hanan 'Ashrawi, arrived in Tunis for what could be a serious confrontation with the PLO leadership and to submit their resignations.

The three would not confirm or deny they were quitting, but head of the Palestinian negotiating team to the bilateral talks with Israel, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi confirmed they travelled to Tunis to formally submit their resignation.

But in an apparent move to downplay differences between the delegation and the PLO leadership, officials in Tunis denied that the three had resigned.

However, PLO officials in Amman said the three delegates headed for Tunis to explain the reasons for their resignations and to discuss means of avoiding further political devisions among Palestinians.

They said that the three delegates decided to resign discreetly in order to avoid embarrassing the leadership and prevent others from exploiting their move to discredit the PLO leadership.

Dr. 'Ashrawi told reporters upon arrival from the West Bank Sunday: "There are serious Palestinian issues that have to be addressed and they will be addressed in a very responsible and discreet manner."

Implicity referring to differences with the PLO leadership, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that "decisions have to be taken democratically and collectively, and if you are convinced by these decisions, you carry them out."

"It is time to discuss these issues very frankly, internally and in a discreet manner," she said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi who arrived in Amman later Sunday, said he himself was not resigning.

He told the JORDAN TIMES he did not think the leadership would accept the resignation of the three delegates. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi appeared to undermine the differences that arose between the leadership and the three delegates, which he said resulted over a Palestinian position paper that was presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to occupied Jerusalem last week.

"I think the differences were ironed out when the delegation submitted to Christopher a document which reaffirmed Palestinian positions, particularly concerning Jerusalem and settlements," he said Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi boycotted the meeting with Mr. Christopher in protest against the American position, which he says is totally bias in favour of Israel.

Considered a hardliner amongst Palestinian delegates, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi called for a boycott of the peace talks until Palestinian demands were met and until Israel agreed to respect the terms of reference of the U.S.-led peace process.

The crisis between the Palestinian leaders heading the negotiations and the PLO leadership climaxed during Mr. Christopher's visit last week.

The delegation, infuriated by contradictory orders from Tunis, refused to follow PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's instructions to give Mr. Christopher a PLO drafted paper on declaration of principles they had not been consulted on, and which they considered a retraction of a prior agreement that no documents would be handed to Mr. Christopher.

The crisis was temporarily defused after Mr. 'Arafat was forced to accept alterations the peace negotiations made to the original document before it was presented to Mr. Christopher two days later.

Other delegates protested the PLO's departure from the agreement and the contents of the PLO's paper by refusing to attend the meeting with Mr. Christopher.

The delegation were also angered to learn that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had submitted the unamended PLO version to Mr. Christopher without prior agreement.

One PLO official said the "mercurial 'Arafat," angered by his delegation's rebellion, threatened to replace them with a "more flexible" team.

The Palestinian paper, obtained by the JORDAN TIMES, included minor linquistic alterations in order to clarify that the Palestinian position was not changed.

The draft document, titled "Palestinian Response to the American Paper," was an amended version of a declaration of principles on interim self-government arrangement, but included a section on "Gaza-Jericho first."

Twelve alterations were made to the original draft paper, some phrases were omitted from the original draft, and words in other parts of the document were altered to change the meaning, particularly related to the two key points of contention—Jerusalem and Palestinian Jurisdiction.

In the original paper on Jerusalem, it read "the agenda for the permanent status negotiations 'should' include the final status of Jerusalem." However, in the altered draft, the word "should" was replaced by "will."

Under the headline "Territorial Jurisdiction," the original draft read: "The two sides have agreed that 'the' territories are viewed as a single territorial unit, whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period, under one system of law."

In the amended version, the word "the territories" was replaced by "these territories" referring to a previous sentence stating that "...for the interim period, the Palestinian Interim Self-Government authority will exercise its territorial jurisdiction on the occupied Palestinian territories which were not under Israeli control on June 4, 1967, including Jerusalem."

These alterations are consistent with the previous Palestinian position presented to chief U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross in a formal paper during his visit to occupied Jerusalem last month.

Some PLO officials and delegates considered the presentation of additional documents to the U.S. as responding to U.S. pressures at the expense of Palestinian interests and credibility.

"That is why we need to unite behind a well-defined strategy in order to avoid serious political divisions and to avoid offering Israel unnecessary concessions throughout the negotiating process," a PLO official said.

But PLO sources in Tunis said the PLO's original paper included the leadership's steady position towards the Jerusalem issue and Palestinian Jurisdiction.

'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif, member of a new PLO's faction, the Palestinian Democratic Union led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, said that despite the inclusion of "most steady Palestinian positions" on crucial issues, it still had gaps and vague phraseolgy which could be used by Israel and the U.S. to bypass Palestinian demands and rights.

"Israel's refusal to implement U.S. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338—which form the basis of the peace process and call for trading land for peace—and what is seen as U.S. bias towards Israel have increased Palestinian frustration and led to further political divisions among Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Further on Document

NC0808192193 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Amman, Aug 8 (AFP)—The PLO policy document handed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his Middle East tour last week contains critical concessions on vital issues in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The document, a copy of which has been obtained by AFP, was drawn up in Cairo by top PLO and Egyptian officials and then revised by the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks because it was too weak.

It has caused a serious rift within the ranks of the PLO.

The document is a response to a discussion paper circulated by Christopher, and even in its revised form takes a markedly more conciliatory tone on the vital issues of Jerusalem and rule over the occupied territories than any previous official Palestinian position.

Much of the document is identical to the U.S. discussion paper, which Palestinian peace delegation member 'Ashrawi slammed as "totally unacceptable" when it was released on June 30.

The position on the Jerusalem question is close to the American proposals. "The agenda for the permanent status negotiations will include Jerusalem," the Palestinian document states, stipulating that these talks should start "not later than the beginning of the third year of the period of interim self-government arrangements."

The PLO has previously insisted that Jerusalem be part of the initial agenda for the negotiations.

Christopher's paper simply states that "once negotiations on permanent status begin, each side can raise whatever issue it wants, including the question of Jerusalem."

The PLO document also differs with the U.S. position on the question of jurisdiction, by stipulating that the occupied territories—the Gaza Strip and the West Bank—must be treated as one administrative entity.

"The two sides have agreed that these territories are viewed as a single territorial unit, whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period under one system of law," the PLO document states.

But a senior PLO leader Nayif Hawatimah—who strongly disagrees with the document—pointed out to AFP at the weekend, the paper is couched in conciliatory language and omits much of the organisation's past fiery rhetoric.

The document makes no mention of U.N. General Assembly resolution 194 of 1948 on the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes. The text also does not mention "Palestine" but rather "the occupied Palestinian territories which were not under Israeli control on June 4, 1967, including Jerusalem."

Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], one of the PLO's three main factions, said this formula suggested the territories were contested and not occupied by force by Israel.

Sha'th on Future Authority in Jericho, Gaza

NC0808134493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo for Tunis this afternoon to attend the Palestinian leadership's meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting will be held in the Tunisian capital later today.

In a predeparture statement, Sha'th said that the Palestinian leadership has summoned Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Hanan 'Ashrawi, members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, to attend the meeting. He said that the Palestinian leadership will review the developments in the negotiations process in light of the paper the Palestinian delegation conveyed to Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem on Thursday.

'Arafat's adviser revealed that the Palestinian paper contains the Palestinian leadership's approval of setting up a Palestinian national authority [sultah wataniyah filastinyah] in Jericho and Gaza after the Israeli forces' withdrawal from them and their replacement by Palestinian forces.

He noted that the establishment of this national authority in Jericho and Gaza does not represent a Palestinian state nor does it suggest that it represents an alternative for the final solution. Instead, this authority will represent a step toward building confidence between the Palestinians and the Israelis, Sha'th said.

Sha'th pointed out that the disengagement between the Israeli and Palestinian forces in Gaza and Jericho will be a prelude to concluding the final agreement between Palestine and Israel similar to the disengagement agreements between Israel and each of Egypt and Syria following the 1973 October War. These agreements represented a prelude to signing the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Sha'th said that after this step in Jericho and Gaza, measures will be taken to complete the formation of the transitional government. We will also start our negotiations with Israel as soon as possible to attain a final solution, Sha'th said. He noted that the current problems cannot be solved for the time being through the Palestinian and Israeli views.

Views Peace Prospects, Recognition of PLO

NC0908135993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Nabil Sha'th, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has announced that Israel is close to recognizing the PLO and starting direct negotiations with it concerning the Palestinian territories and the self-rule authority.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Sha'th said that his recent talks with Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid in Cairo were authorized by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, although this was not officially announced. He said that the Israelis have made a decision to establish peace and the Palestinian people are the only road to it. He added, however, that the Israelis are trying to bargain over the price that should be paid for this peace.

The Palestinian adviser pointed out that recognizing the PLO would mean Israel's recognition of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, a matter that makes Rabin hesitate. He said that Israel expressed readiness to hold talks with the PLO on the final solution as of tomorrow, but the United States is not yet ready to reopen dialogue with the PLO or to sit with it at the negotiating table.

In his statement, President 'Arafat's adviser said: In the Palestinian paper conveyed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem, the PLO accepted a proposal for setting up a Palestinian national authority in Gaza and Jericho. This step represents a kind of disengagement between the Israeli and Palestinian forces similar to what happened on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts after the October 1973 War.

Continuing, Sha'th said that this measure, although it may seem a step backward because it does not involve the establishment of self- rule authority on all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, it could serve as the first step opening the way to further tangible measures that would assure all sides of the prospects for the success of negotiations.

Sha'th noted that this agreement is represented in the possible withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho and their replacement by Palestinian forces. A Palestinian national authority will be set up there but it would not be called a state. We do not call this a final solution, Sha'th said.

Sha'th said: After this agreement, measures will be taken to complete the formation of the transitional government. We will also start our negotiations immediately to attain a final solution because the current problems cannot be solved for the time being through the Palestinian and Israeli views.

Sha'th said that there is a proposal to work out an agreement on principles, after which we will be able to reach an interim agreement that will be urgently applied in Gaza and Jericho. This is what we are discussing now, Sha'th added.

Foresees PLO Leaders Joining Talks

JN0608195393 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has emphasized the need for the United States to understand that the transitional agreement should not annul the inalienable rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories and Jerusalem.

Dr. Sha'th criticized the U.S. position, which rejects pressuring Israel, although it has all the keys to a solution. He said the division in the negotiations is Israel's outright rejection of Palestinian jurisdiction of the 10 percent of the occupied territories that includes Jerusalem and the areas on which settlements have been constructed. Israel is trying to freeze the status of the state lands in the West Bank during the transitional stage. These lands represent 30 percent of the West Bank.

Dr. Sha'th said the PLO presented a working paper, in response to the U.S. working paper, through Egypt and the meeting between the Palestinian negotiators and U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, during his failed mission in the region. This paper emphasized that Palestinian jurisdiction should include all Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and called for the full implementation of Resolution 242. The paper also emphasized that we do not reject other aspects of the U.S. paper.

Sha'th emphasized that implementation of a confederation with Jordan will happen after the creation of an independent Palestinian state. It will be based on the free choice of the two peoples. The confederation will be between two states that have two governments, two flags, and two parliaments. The two states will have the right to disengage if the experiment is not successful.

Sha'th said two years of negotiations have resulted in Israel's recognition of a central Palestinian authority in parts of the occupied territories, instead of insisting on an administration that runs the affairs of the population. Israel also agreed to hold free elections under international supervision. It accepted the right to full legislative Palestinian power, Palestinian control of economic resources, and the participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in the negotiations on family reunions and the repatriation of deportees and refugees.

Sha'th expressed his belief that Israel will soon accept holding an official meeting with the PLO. Efforts are currently under way to officially recognize the Palestinian delegation as representing the PLO, which will allow PLO leaders to sit at the negotiating table.

'Arafat Adviser: 'Arafat-Rabin Talks 'Soon'

NC0908114493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1006 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Tunis, 9 Aug (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, has said that direct negotiations between the PLO leadership and the Israeli Government will start soon.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, Abu-Sharif adds that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin cannot continue to maintain his position, which rejects these direct negotiations, as long as the majority of his ministers support such a step.

Abu-Sharif confirmed what Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat had said earlier—that he is ready to meet Rabin anywhere at any time that Rabin chooses. He pointed out that should Rabin take a step forward, it would be considered responsiveness to 'Arafat and would avert future woes in the region.

'Abbas Claims To Have Met Israel's Sarid

TA0808113193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], a senior PLO official, confirms the secret meeting between Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, Nabil Sha'th, and Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, and said that he also met with Sarid in Cairo at the latter's request. Abu-Mazin asserted that Sarid and Sha'th held a profound dialogue on issues pertaining to the peace process. Abu-Mazin made these statements in an interview to AL-KHALIJ, which is a newspaper appearing in the United Arab Emirates.

Newspaper Views Role of Abu-Mazin Group in Talks

TA0608182193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Aug 93 pp 8, 9

[Article by Pinhas 'Inbari: "The Thread Offered by Abu-Mazin"]

[Text] A new option is now emerging from the Palestinian pandemonium. It is perhaps the last one before Israel loses all hope of having a Palestinian interlocutor for a long time, and becomes totally dependent on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's largesse with regard to the Palestinian question as well.

The latest Palestinian option is the Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] group in Cairo, which has taken charge of the negotiations since peace coordinator Dennis Ross held talks in the region last month.

In principle, and in a wider sense, the Abu-Mazin group belongs to Faysal al-Husayni's and Hanan 'Ashrawi's wing of the Palestinian delegation, and during the tough years when the delegation was just established and taking its first steps, the Abu-Mazin group firmly supported that wing in the sharp arguments which took place in the PLO and Fatah institutions.

The group's positions became more clear during Secretary of State Christopher's latest round of talks, and it became increasingly apparent that there was both an address for negotiations as well as what to discuss. Moreover, even if nothing came out of the contacts, Israel may have better ideas than those deemed acceptable by the Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh group—but they will not have [sentence incomplete as published].

The main issue raised by the Abu-Mazin group for discussion and implementation is the Gaza First proposal, with a parallel move taking place in Jericho. A concurrent implementation of the plan in Jericho is necessary in order to allay fears that after Israel rids itself of the Gaza Strip, it will be under no pressure to withdraw from the West Bank. At the same time, the Gaza Strip, under Palestinian rule, needs access to Jordan, something that necessitates thought about some kind of "corridor" between Gaza and Jericho. It also seems that the Abu-Mazin group's attitude toward early empowerment [previous two words in English] is lukewarm to negative; and this is an issue that merits some clarification. Apparently, although Abu-Mazin's group and al-Husayni's wing belong to the same pragmatic political framework, differences between them have emerged over the years of political negotiations. The Abu- Mazin group is still part of the PLO abroad, and finds it psychologically difficult to accept the consolidation of a local Palestinian leadership in the territories. In the framework of the Gaza First proposal, the members of the Abu-Mazin group—and this is especially true of Nabil Sha'th, who is Gazan in origin—prefer to come to the Gaza Strip themselves to order to administer things without allowing the local leadership in the territories to receive the powers of the Civil Administration and thus grow even stronger.

On this matter, the Abu-Mazin group share the basic view of Yasir 'Arafat and the other PLO institutions. During the indirect contacts Prime Minister Rabin held with Yasir 'Arafat through Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat opposed the Gaza First proposal and subsequently got involved in an argument with the Abu-Mazin group. Now 'Arafat has changed his mind. There is no evidence that he actually supports the Gaza First proposal, but he expressed his tacit approval through Abu-Mazin.

The main reason 'Arafat refrained from meeting Knesset Members Ya'el Dayan and 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah was because he had cleared the way for Abu-Mazin, without committing himself. If the Abu-Mazin group fails, one can expect 'Arafat to remind everyone that he never supported the move in the first place, and there will be no more Palestinian interlocutors.

The key reason for the shift in 'Arafat's position, or in other words, his passive agreement to the Gaza and Jericho First initiative, is rooted in the difficulties that increasingly threaten him from all sides and limit the maneuvering room he has enjoyed in recent years: Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's rejection of his authority; Hanan 'Ashrawi's contention that the delegation should participate in the decisionmaking process and not just take orders; the revolt of Fatah's military wing; Jordan's King Husayn's refusal to help him circumvent the delegation from the territories by calling for an early confederation; President al-Asad's refusal to meet him; Saudi Arabia's tight-fisted stance on renewing financial aid to the PLO, which curtails his ability to buy political clout and places the responsibility for the Palestinians' unprecedented economic plight squarely at 'Arafat's door. All he has left is his foothold in Cairo. The Abu-Mazin group is very close to the Egyptians, and 'Arafat has to make sure he does not step on any toes.

Now it is becoming more and more clear that the main reason for 'Abd-al-Shafi's and 'Ashrawi's rebellious statements is the progress made by the Abu-Mazin group in Cairo.

Already during the previous round of talks held by Dennis Ross, the Palestinian delegates were surprised to discover that while they, following 'Arafat's instructions to reject the U.S. paper, exhibited tough positions, Ross pulled out a copy of the document which included comments in Abu-Mazin's and Nabil Sha'th's handwriting. The Palestinian document that the PLO ordered the delegation to deliver to Ross was also prepared by Abu-Mazin and Nabil Sha'th, although it had never been approved by the PLO's Executive Committee. When 'Abd-al-Shafi learned about this, he publicly declared that 'Arafat should be supplemented by a collective leadership—and he was probably referring to himself and to the other heads of the PLO institutions—in order to distance Nabil Sha'th.

'Abd-al-Shafi's position is of special importance, because he is the most senior leader in the Gaza Strip. Already in the previous rounds of talks, al-Shafi demanded that the title "head of the leadership committee" be struck off the communiques issued by the Palestinian delegation. Now he [not further specified] will not accept him as head of the Gaza council, which is supposed to take charge of the area, most probably under UN auspices. The absence of senior Gaza Strip officials in this week's meeting with Christopher, may have a negative affect on the Strip's readiness to accept the Gaza First proposal.

Last month, Orient House was the scene of sharp arguments about the transfer of powers. According to all the reports, Faysal al- Husayni was prepared to examine the matter. Between al-Husayni and Abu-Mazin, the former prefers the transfer of powers, whereas the latter is more amenable to the Gaza First idea. This week, the Palestinian delegation appointed a "supreme political committee" in the Gaza Strip, made up of its supporters, apparently in order to solidify their claim, so that if the Palestinians from Cairo do arrive in the Gaza Strip, they will be incapable of overcoming the already established local forces.

The Abu-Mazin group and al-Husayni wing in the territories operate under different constraints, and that is the reason for the differences between them. While al-Husayni is working under pressure from the territories Palestinians, under the pressure of the intifadah and Rabin's disproportionate policy ranging from gestures to blows, Abu-Mazin and Nabil Sha'th are under an opposite pressure in Cairo: The Egyptian Government pressures them for more and more flexibility.

Christopher learned of the PLO's willingness to embrace the Gaza First plan while in Cairo—and the information did not come from the Palestinian delegation. Abu-Mazin's stand on Jerusalem as communicated to Knesset Member Darawshah in Tunis is more amenable for Israel than the stand al-Husayni can embrace under his constraints: Abu-Mazin did not mention Jerusalem as part of the territorial jurisdiction, noting that this problem, along with other disputed issues, can wait for the permanent stage provided Israel explicitly states as much.

Rabin has other problems with Gaza and Jericho First. He is still deeply entrenched in the interim arrangements mentality, and he is afraid that Gaza can be only settled in a permanent arrangement, because it does not have the volume for a territorial compromise, its border is already fully demarcated, and it has full- fledged border crossing points. Also, leaving the IDF in Gaza would be unwarranted because Gaza does not entail the problems of the eastern front which necessitate continued IDF deployment in the West Bank. Rabin is afraid that the model which takes shape in Gaza will later obligate Israel also in the West Bank, just as the Sinai model obligates it in the Golan. In addition, Rabin's favorite phased plan, which is one of the models being considered for the West Bank, is inapplicable in Gaza. For psychological reasons, he is also disinclined to let PLO people—even those from the Abu-Mazin group—into the territories.

This is today the major difference between Peres and Rabin. Peres left for Cairo and held contacts with Abu-Mazin, albeit through Usamah al-Baz, not directly. Apparently the Gaza First plan was finalized at that time, but Rabin is evidently having difficulties accepting it, although he has not rejected it yet either.

Every proposed solution entails severe problems and grave apprehensions. At the same time, the thread offered by Abu-Mazin should be grasped for several reasons. First of all, there is no other interlocutor. Second, Egypt's place in the future process will be preserved in this kind of initiative. If this initiative fails, we will remain exposed to al-Asad. With all respect due to al-Asad for his part in the resolution of the Lebanon crisis, he must not be given a role in the solution of the Palestinian problem.

At the same time, we must not give up on the Palestinian delegation even as we cling to Abu-Mazin's thread. While it is true that this delegation is undergoing a serious crisis, the PLO organization is in the midst of an even more serious crisis, and compared to the PLO's condition, the delegation is still in a good shape—especially since it is obvious today that the political process is designed to strengthen the Palestinians in the territories, and not the PLO. A post-'Arafat succession war is already evident, and it would be more desirable for us to prefer Abu-Mazin and his men over Syrian representatives. Therefore, along with accepting the Abu-Mazin group as the current negotiators, the momentum of imminent arrangements should be taken advantage of in a bid to rehabilitate the Palestinian delegation. After all, al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, Abu-Mazin, and Nabil Sha'th are our interlocutors, and we have no others.

'Urayqat Terms U.S., Israeli Proposals 'Carbon Copy'

TA0608164893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Aug 93 p 11

[Article by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the negotiating delegation: "Christopher's Tour and the Challenges"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region bore a new dimension not in content, but presentation. This dimension is epitomized by the Clinton administration's adoption of Israeli positions in form and content, not only on the Palestinian-Israeli track but also on all the other tracks.

What the U.S. is proposing are the same Israeli proposals. When Secretary Christopher hears a proposal from the Arab parties, he evaluates it in terms of how close or far it is from Rabin's proposals. If part of that proposal is similar or close to Rabin's proposals, it is accepted by the Americans and separated from the other part that might contradict the Israeli proposal. Anything that is not in harmony with Rabin's proposals is considered illogical by the Americans.

There are many examples for this. On the Palestinian-Israeli track, it has become difficult, if not impossible, to differentiate between the U.S. and Israeli positions. There is not even one point on which the U.S. position contradicts that of Israel. This includes such issues as Jerusalem, territorial jurisdiction, linkage between the interim and final stages, the goal of the negotiations, the transfer of power and responsibilities, elections, measures on the ground, human rights violations, settlement activity, and resumption of the U.S. dialogue with the PLO. On comparing the Israeli proposals, we find that what the U.S. team proposed before and during Christopher's tour of the region was a carbon copy of what Elyaqim Rubinstein, the Israeli delegation head, had proposed at the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Naturally, no one expected a breakthrough to occur as a result of Christopher's visit, but we can say that the United State's continued fulfillment of the role of a party that is trying by all available means to draw the Arab positions toward the Israeli ones means a negotiating stalemate. Even if the negotiations were to continue, they will be negotiations without negotiations, not negotiations with the aim of achieving peace.

It is inconceivable for Christopher to come to the region and return without declaring a clear U.S. position on the need of Israel's commitment to withdraw from the Arab lands occupied since 1967 in accordance with the land-for-peace principle, or that East Jerusalem is occupied territory. These are U.S. positions announced since 1967, but when the current U.S. Administration is queried about its position on these issues, it answers that there is no change in the U.S. positions, without stating those positions. In the language of actual diplomacy this means there is a real possibility that those positions will change and that the refusal to spell them out or call a spade a spade is no more than a prelude to that change.

In light of the above, the time has come to raise all these issues at the coordinating table among the Arab parties involved in the peace process in order to study the issues in depth and determine the best means of dealing with them jointly among these parties.

Coordination among the involved Arab parties has, in this stage, become a safety net. Definitely, the positions of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine on a comprehensive solution, rejection of unilateral solutions and bilateral agreements, and persistent adherence to international legitimacy, and above all the principle of land for peace, has constituted and constitutes the best Arab response to the challenges emanating from the peace process.

Reviews Talks With Christopher

NC0708090593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem by 'Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can you brief us on the results of your meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher?

['Urayqat] We met with Christopher on Tuesday [3 August] and Thursday. Several issues were discussed during these two meetings, the most important was the obstacles standing in the way of reaching an agreement on a declaration of principles. The obstacles are represented by Israel's rejection of the principle of territorial jurisdiction and its insistence on excluding Jerusalem from the talks. During the past round, we submitted to Ross proposals concerning Jerusalem and territorial jurisdiction but we received no reply.

Discussion revolved around several issues, such as Israel's violation of Palestinian human rights and the need for the PLO's official participation in the peace talks in order to move this process forward.

During the last meeting with Christopher, we submitted a Palestinian document on a declaration of principles. This is the fourth document that we have submitted since discussions started on a declaration of principles at the beginning of the ninth round. It was agreed that the U.S. side would study these new proposals and answer them.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Can we know what is new in this document submitted to the U.S. secretary of state?

['Urayqat] First of all, this document was sent to us by the PLO leadership in Tunis. It contains most of the points mentioned in previous documents, except one. The new point is the option of Gaza-Jericho first. I would like to explain this point. It combines the interim and final phases. It means we are demanding an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho with a corridor linking them, along the lines of the disengagement that occurred on the Egyptian front in 1974 and on the Syrian front in 1975. Meanwhile, an agreement will be reached on arrangements for the interim phase in the remaining areas, including Jerusalem, according to a timetable.

This is the new proposal. We discussed it during the first meeting with Secretary Christopher. He asked us to put it down in writing. We submitted it in the document, which basically emphasizes that any agreement that excludes Jerusalem or territorial jurisdiction cannot succeed.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] However, reports say that you at first refused to receive the document prepared by the PLO leadership.

['Urayqat] This is an incorrect report. We as individuals are given a mission to carry out the instructions of our leadership scrupulously. What happened is that we received this document at a late hour on the night before we met with Secretary Christopher. We contacted the leadership to clarify some technical points. At the meeting with Secretary Christopher, we told him there were clear instructions from President 'Arafat to hand him this document, which we will deliver at the next meeting. Discussion revolved around the Gaza-Jericho option. He asked us to incorporate the new ideas in the document. I don't know why these reports are being circulated about a delegation that does not carry out the instructions of its leadership.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Have you noticed any change in the U.S. Administration's stand?

['Urayqat] I will answer this question in two parts. The first part is that Christopher arrived in Cairo and then moved to other capitals. This indicates the importance of Egypt's diplomatic efforts in this process. We as a Palestinian delegation are in close touch with Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese officials. The Arab side has clearly defined stands based on international legitimacy and the terms of reference of the peace process.

The second part is that Israel is trying to fragment the land-for-peace principle. It forgets it is obliged to withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967. It wants to focus on the nature of peace, security, and other issues. It wants an answer from Syria on its concept of peace before committing to any withdrawal. The same applies to Lebanon, Jordan, and us.

In fact, what surprised me during Christopher's tour is that he did not reiterate the declared U.S. stands on the land-for-peace principle, on Jerusalem being an occupied city, and on the need for an Israeli withdrawal in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242. Does this mean that there is a U.S. attempt to adopt Israel's viewpoint on how to deal with the peace process? Is this a new U.S. method to attempt to jump over matters that must not be jumped over if we want to achieve success? Actually, these matters were raised with the U.S. delegation during its visit. We hope the United States will act as a cosponsor that bases its activity on international legitimacy and fixed terms of reference.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] This is the impression we have gotten from the statements issued by Israeli Government officials and Christopher. There is a common view regarding the talks with the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian sides. However, the view differs regarding the talks with the Palestinian side?

['Urayqat] In fact, the Arabs stands are almost unified regarding the desire to achieve comprehensive peace on the basis of the land-for-peace principle. This formula is indivisible. Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories in return for peace. What we have noticed during this tour is that Christopher focused on the last part of the peace formula and not the first part. We drew the attention of the U.S. Administration to this fact. We told the cosponsor that in the event that the land-for-peace formula is divided, the peace process will be in real danger.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Is this significant?

['Urayqat] I do not want to anticipate matters. So far the United States has not acted as a mediator, broker, or even a full partner. It is trying to reconcile the stands of the parties. However, the United States as a cosponsor should submit its declared stands on the negotiating table. These stands include the land-for-peace formula, security, and the new landscape of the Middle East. However, the United States should not sidestep the need for Israel to withdraw and only focus on what is required from the Arabs in this process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] The Palestinian delegation submitted two options to Christopher. The first option includes merging the interim and final phases whereby Israel will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, which will be linked by a corridor. The second option includes moving directly from the interim phase to the final phase and establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. Is there a clear U.S. concept of these two options?

['Urayqat] Regarding the first option, it was submitted in writing to Secretary Christopher and is included in the new Palestinian document. Regarding the possibility of skipping the interim phase and entering directly into the final phase, we submitted such an idea to Secretary Christopher. He did not answer yes or no. He said he wanted to discuss the idea in depth. We told him that after 20 years of complications, difficulties, and Israel's insistence on fragmenting the issues and not cooperating regarding the issues of territorial jurisdiction and Jerusalem, perhaps we should enter directly into the final phase in accordance with the confederation option. Naturally, confederation will be a voluntary decision made by the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples after an independent Palestinian entity is established. We are prepared to discuss such issues. However, we did not include this idea in the paper that we submitted to Christopher. This is because there is a need for further coordination between the PLO and Jordan.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Is Christopher's surprise meeting with Faysal al-Husayni significant?

['Urayqat] It is not in fact a surprise meeting. It was agreed to hold a series of meetings during the tour. A bilateral meeting was arranged between al-Husayni and Christopher. During this meeting, Christopher asked that the Palestinian delegation deliver the document on the evening of the same day. He briefed al-Husayni on his visits to Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

Al-Nashashibi on Christopher Meetings, U.S. Document

NC0808084593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Interview with Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Economic and Planning Department, in Amman by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Husayn] How do you view the situation now following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region and his meetings with members of the Palestinian negotiating team? What are the results of these meetings?

[Al-Nashashibi] Christopher wanted to learn the Palestinian position on the draft of the document of principles he submitted at the end of the 10th round of talks. The PLO Executive Committee studied this document and considered it unfit for resuming the dialogue on an agreement of principles that will define the peace process regarding the occupied Palestinian territories. Christopher insisted that the Palestinian delegation express its position in writing on every clause in the document. The Palestinian position from the start was that the U.S. draft did not mention issues that the Palestinian negotiating team and leadership consider basic for continuing the negotiations. These basic issues are as follows:

1. Defining the territories occupied in 1967 as occupied territories and not as disputed territories, which is a new term introduced by Christopher and Israel. This term must be rejected because, according to the UN resolutions, they are considered occupied territories.

2. Dealing with the issue of Jerusalem. Arab Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. The international community rejected the Israeli decision to merge the city and expand the borders of Jerusalem. Consequently, the Greater Jerusalem plan is null and void according to international law. The PLO insists that the geographic jurisdiction of Palestinian autonomy include Jerusalem.

3. Regarding the transitional phase, we do not accept the so-called early empowerment [last two words in English] because it divides that phase and is not within the framework of a comprehensive agreement on the transitional phase and does not link it to the final phase. Therefore, we insist that the transfer of power should be genuine, along with elections of a legislative council and executive authority to run the transitional phase. Backed by the United States, Israel insists on early empowerment and proposes such areas as health, agriculture, education, and tourism. These are insignificant powers, and we already supervise health and education.

[Husayn] Did the Palestinian delegation submit a written response to the U.S. secretary of state?

[Al-Nashashibi] Yes. The Palestinian delegation submitted detailed remarks on all the clauses outlined in the U.S. document of principles. Christopher commented, saying: We now understand better the Palestinian position.

[Husayn] What was the reaction after Christopher's meeting with the Israeli officials?

[Al-Nashashibi] Christopher did not talk much about the Israeli position. He believes that the Israeli position can be moved closer to the U.S. position when the U.S. party accepts the Palestinian remarks. Israel still refuses to discuss Jerusalem, define the geographic jurisdiction, and consider Security Council Resolution 242 as a term of reference to the transitional phase. We believe that Resolution 242 must be the basis for the transitional phase so that the nature of the territories and an approach to a final settlement can be defined.

[Husayn] Does this mean that Christopher's tour produced nothing new as far as the Palestinian-Israeli aspect is concerned?

[Al-Nashashibi] The tour did bring new ideas. Christopher showed a readiness to reconsider the content of the U.S. document.

[Husayn] Does the content of the U.S. paper differ much from the Palestinian paper?

[Al-Nashashibi] There is big difference between the two papers. I do not want to elaborate on certain points in the U.S. paper that cannot be accepted. There is a clause in the U.S. paper that indicates a possibility that any party can claim sovereignty over the Palestinian territories in a final settlement.

[Husayn] Will the Palestinian delegation take part in the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations given the current situation?

[Al-Nashashibi] The PLO Executive Committee will make a decision regarding participation in the next round of talks. [passage omitted]

Christopher Leaves Peace Process With 'Question Marks'

LD0808225493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has ended his tour of the region, leaving the peace process and its future development surrounded by question marks. People are waiting to see what the U.S. Administration will decide after consulting with the other sponsor, i.e. Russia.

From a Palestinian and Arab point of view, and even from an Israeli point of view, the peace efforts are suffering from ther deadlock and stagnation. With the Palestinians in particular, a feeling has emerged that the credibility of the negotiations is diminishing as the days pass, that the negotiations are going Israel's way, and that Washington is getting closer to the Israeli views and positions. On the other hand, there is almost a complete separation between the scope for negotiations and the discussions taking place there and Israel's realities and practices, whether in the occupied territories or in Lebanon.

The clear attempt made during the U.S. secretary of state's tour to drive a wedge between the various aspects of the peace process is definitely not considered among the more positive characteristics and developments; rather, it will be recorded as a diplomatic move fraught with dangers. This interest in the Syrian aspect, and the hint that a settlement of the Golan issue is imminent, was simply a way of putting pressure on the Palestinian side to accept more concessions in order to come closer to, and even correspond with, the proposed U.S. paper for the Palestinian-Israeli principles of declaration.

The Arab parties concerned with the peace process have asked that Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 be dealt with as one package, so that a synchronized progress can take place on all aspects of the negotiations and in such a manner that would prevent progress on one track being used to prevent progress on the others.

Yet Israel and its U.S. partner have continued following the same policy, which has an extensive effect on the credibility of the content and outcome of the negotiations. It is certain that, as well as wasting valuable time—the 10 rounds that have taken place thus far have lasted for almost two years—this approach will not be in the interests of the peace process, and this process represents the remnants of hope among the peoples of the region that there will be an end to the catastrophes, calamities, and destruction which they have too often suffered from. Everybody should remember that the window of opportunity for peace, or for other things, is not limitless.

Ten Factions Criticize Motives of Christopher Tour

JN0908102793 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Aug 93

["Text" of statement issued by the 10 Palestinian factions; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O masses of our militant people: It is no coincidence that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in our region a few days after the Zionist war of destruction and expulsion launched against the Lebanese people and southern Lebanon. Christopher sought to strike while the iron was hot, just as envoy Philip Habib did in the eighties and envoy Henry Kissinger did in the seventies.

The hot iron sought—in addition to the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance in southern Lebanon—both the intifadah and the Palestinian national factions, which embody the Palestinian people's will and reject the Madrid-Washington course. This aimed to achieve breakthroughs on other Arab tracks and to separate the negotiating tracks. Christopher seeks to impose this plan in response to Yitzhaq Rabin's request to implement the idea of separate deals on each Arab track.

In the 12 May and 30 June documents submitted as two plans for the Palestinian-Zionist declaration of principles, the United States revealed its blatant position as a full partner of the Zionist entity. These two U.S. documents provide a cover for this entity's repressive and bloody policy. They are also a form of pressure and blackmail against the PLO's influential bureaucratic wing, designed to obtain more concessions as part of the Madrid-Washington negotiations.

The Palestinian team that met with Christopher for the second time in Jerusalem on 5 August received instructions from the leadership dominating the PLO in Tunis to submit a host of formulas as amendments to the U.S. document. The substance of these amendments does not regard the Palestinian lands as occupied territories, contrary to the resolutions of international legitimacy; the amendments regard these lands as disputed territories. Moreover, these amendments do not regard Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories, and accept the fact that the transitional phase need not be linked to the final phase. They even accept to abandon the principle of territorial jurisdiction in order to fragment the occupied territories.

O masses of our militant people: Being aware of the U.S. and Zionist maneuvers and pressures and of the response to this scheme shown by the leadership dominating the PLO and by its negotiating team, the 10 factions hold this leadership fully responsible for its submission to what is taking place. They also reiterate their call for withdrawal from the bilateral and multilateral negotiations and for initiating a comprehensive national dialogue in response to calls by the majority of the Palestinian people's masses, factions, currents, functionaries, and national and Islamic personalities. This would be a prelude to regaining the unity of the land, the people, the intifadah, and the PLO, and also to crystallizing an alternative militant strategy in confronting both this liquidation conspiracy and all forms of pressure designed to peddle the self-rule conspiracy, and cancel the PLO and the Palestinian people's national rights.

The first chapter of Christopher's shuttle tour has ended, and a similar tour may soon be made. This tour—along with its implied grave threats to both the Palestine question and the causes of the Arab and Islamic nation—requires all vibrant forces in our nation to support our people's brave intifadah and generalize the model steadfastness of the Lebanese and Palestinian national and Islamic resistance in confronting the recent Zionist aggressions on Lebanon.

The 10 factions urge the masses of our Palestinian people to participate in the following activities:

1. On 9 August, to mark the intifadah entering its 69th month: Observing a general strike in the occupied territories, and militant activities in the diaspora countries.

2. On 17 August, to mark the passage of eight months since the mujahidin were deported to Marj al-Zuhur: Observing a general strike in the occupied territories and solidarity activities in the diaspora countries.

3. A day of wrath and confrontation with the occupation shall be observed on 21 August, to mark the 24th anniversary of setting fire to the al-Aqsa Mosque.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

PNC Official on Meeting With Factions in Syria

JN0708111293 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Aug 93 p 46

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Taysir Qubba'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], will begin talks today with leaders of the Palestinian factions in the Syrian capital to facilitate the convening of a comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Qubba'ah said he and several members of a Palestinian delegation will hold a dialogue with factions both inside and outside the PLO to help put the Palestinian house in order. He said that after this meeting, he will hold another meeting with the Palestinian leadership in the Tunisian capital this week.

Qubba'ah, who returned from a similar mission in Beirut, did not confirm or deny that President Yasir 'Arafat had entrusted him with this move. He did, however, say that all Palestinian factions and personalities, regardless of their attitudes, agree on the need for and the importance of a comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue. He said: The only way for the Palestinian factions to confront the challenges facing both the Palestinian people and the Palestine question is to hold this comprehensive national dialogue without any preconditions.

Qubba'ah pointed out that the Palestinian people still possess important weapons, including the brave intifadah, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and, above all, Palestinian national unity. He said the PLO will confront all efforts designed to give more concessions to the U.S.-Israeli plan on resolving the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, Qubba'ah pointed out that on 12 June, the PNC chairmanship distributed a memorandum on holding the comprehensive dialogue. All Palestinian factions and popular bodies inside and outside the occupied territories welcomed such a dialogue.

Qubba'ah noted that this memorandum stressed the importance of a comprehensive dialogue in order to consolidate the PLO. He said: The memorandum also stressed the need to maintain the intifadah and to maintain the phased Palestinian national program on Palestinians' return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, under the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

People's Party Leader: Factional Differences Natural

JN0808151793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Aug 93 p 27

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party, formerly the Palestinian Communist Party, has called "for promoting Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and stressed that democracy is the best solution to any differences between Palestinians inside [the occupied territories] and abroad."

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, during a visit to Amman from the occupied Palestine, al-Barghuthi stressed "the existence of differences among Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, adding that these differences are natural and may occur within any political movement."

He added: "There is no need to exaggerate the danger of these differences. All Palestinians have one goal, and that is regaining their occupied homeland and their usurped rights and building their independence."

The secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party reiterated his call for "a comprehensive national Palestinian dialogue." He also said: "We need dialogue at this critical turning point in the Palestine question. We are trying to achieve practical results from dialogue in order to bolster national unity and push Palestinian action toward our national goals."

Al-Barghuthi added: "We in the Palestinian People's Party deal with this issue objectively. Perhaps it is difficult for us to reach agreement on what we want. Therefore, let us try to agree on what we cannot accept, that is, on red lines to which every one should commit himself as a minimum requirement. This is possible."

He also said: "The main forces should hold the dialogue within the framework of the PLO and on a narrow scale. Then they will expand it on the points of agreement at the preparatory stage to include all the Palestinian forces and active figures in the Palestinian arena without any discrimination."

Responding to a question, he said: "It is known that we have refused to take part in Palestinian meetings with the U.S. Secretary of State because we reject the U.S. draft declaration of principles, in line with the PLO Executive Committee's decision."

Al-Barghuthi added: "At the same time, we expressed our readiness to participate in meetings with Christopher if they would not discuss the U.S. draft declaration of principles."

He said: "In our opinion, the failure of the Madrid formula does not mean acceptance of a worse negotiating formula, which will also fail like the Madrid formula."

He added: "Negotiations over the past 20 months have proven that the fiasco was due to U.S. and Israeli failure to respect the principles of international legitimacy and the logic of the Madrid formula itself and its negotiating reference, that is, Resolutions 242 and 338." [passage omitted]

Algeria

34 Islamists Sentenced To Death 7 Aug

LD0808125193 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1200 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] In Algeria, 34 Islamists were condemned to death yesterday evening by a special court for having attacked army troops. Twenty-nine of them are still at large. This is the largest group of terrorists to have been condemned since the spring.

Premier's Office on Organization of Economic Conference

LD0808202693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpt] In a cable to APS, the prime minister's office stresses that the organization of the national conference on the country's economic choices was decided by the Higher State Council and the prime minister.

This announcement was made in reply to some interpretations. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Extremist Group: Killings in Retaliation for Hangings

NC0808131793 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Asyut, Egypt, Aug 8 (AFP)—Islamic militants mowed down a police general, his bodyguard and driver to avenge the government's hangings of 15 of their comrades, their group said Sunday [8 August].

The underground al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah said Saturday's ambush on the general's car in Naja' Hammadi, 535 kilometers (320 miles) south of Cairo, was to "avenge our brothers hanged by the regime" of President Husni Mubarak.

Three gunmen after dusk fired 60 bullets at the car carrying General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Ghabarah, deputy director of police for northern Qina province, as it headed to the city's police headquarters, police said.

With the three latest deaths, 47 policemen and 134 other people have been killed since Islamic militants stepped up their campaign to overthrow Mubarak's secular regime in March 1992, according to an AFP toll.

The gunmen made off with the bodyguard's automatic rifle as well as the general's walkie-talkie, police said. Security forces immediately arrested a number of activists belonging to the clandestine al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah.

An al-Jama'ah member told AFP by telephone that "we will not keep our arms folded as the (government) liquidates the Islamic groups" and vowed his group would pursue its struggle "whatever the price."

The government has hanged 15 militants since June, including six from the province of Qina who were convicted of carrying out an attack last November on a mini-bus, injuring six German tourists.

Ghabarah had only been in his job a week when the attack occurred and had not been involved in the crackdown that led to the arrests of the six Qina militants who were hanged, an AFP correspondent said. [passage omitted]

Officers Club Attacked; Policeman Injured

NC0908101893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1003 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Asyut, 9 Aug (MENA)—Policeman Muhammad Rashwan from the al-Qusiyah police station in Asyut Governorate in Upper Egypt was severely injured today when six terrorists attacked the officers' club in the low-cost housing area in al-Qusiyah city. The attackers fled after the attack and the policeman was evacuated to the hospital for treatment.

The security forces surrounded the site and intensified their search for the culprits. Preliminary reports said that they fled quickly into the farmland surrounding the area. The security forces are continuing their search to apprehend the culprits and are combing the whole area.

Al-Baz on Peace Process, Extremist Violence

PM0608120493 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 1 Aug 93 p 6

[Interview with Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, by Patricia Tubella; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Tubella] To what extent do you believe the recent Israeli military offensive in southern Lebanon will affect the peace process?

[Al-Baz] These attacks delay achievements in the peace process and create more tensions in the region. Since Israel is seeking an understanding with its neighbors, including Lebanon, it is not a wise policy to react militarily to every provocation. It should restrain itself and concentrate on taking the necessary steps to achieve tangible progress in the peace process.

[Tubella] The Israeli action comes at a critical point in the negotiation....

[Al-Baz] Yes, because it makes many Arabs doubt its sincere desire to achieve peace. These attacks strengthen Hizballah, which is seeking to block the path to peace, because they make it look like the champion in the defense of the Lebanese people against the foreign aggressor.

In a few weeks, we could have a declaration of principles signed by the Israelis and the Palestinians, who are drawing closer to each other. An agreement with the

Syrians on the Golan Heights needs just a few months, and we believe that peace between Syria and Israel can be achieved before the end of the year. As far as the Palestinians are concerned, matters will be facilitated by the fact that it is not the final agreement—the future of Gaza and the West Bank—which is being negotiated but a transitional stage—the setting up of a system of autonomy. However, two problems remain unresolved; determining under what jurisdiction the settlements will come and the right to vote of the over 100,000 Palestinian inhabitants of East Jerusalem, which Israel denies them.

[Tubella] Do you believe that there is some government behind the rise of fundamentalism in southern Lebanon and the territories?

[Al-Baz] There are indications, albeit inconclusive, that Hizballah and Hamas receive funds from Iran, but there is clear evidence of Iran's propaganda support for these groups, for which it provides cover and contacts. I believe that Iran will do everything possible to block the path to peace, because it seems to believe that this does not serve its interests.

[Tubella] Will this fundamentalist pressure force an acceleration of the negotiation?

[Al-Baz] It could be an obstacle but, at the same time, represent an incentive to the moderate sectors in Israel and the Palestinian leadership, which will try to accelerate the peace process before it is too late. In Israel, Netanyahu's Likud could argue that Rabin has not succeeded in keeping his main campaign promise—peace with the Arabs and the Palestinians. As far as the PLO is concerned, it could find its position weakened if it is unable to show its people something tangible within a reasonable space of time. We could reach a terrible situation which would give an opportunity for the hard-line sectors to take control.

[Tubella] How do you assess Yizhaq Rabin's attitude to the peace process?

[Al-Baz] He is a key element in achieving peace because he has the support of the majority of the Israelis. He is a tough man in security matters—he is a military man—but more moderate than the Likud and less than other Labor Party leaders. Let us say that he is a centrist with an open mind, and committed to the principle of land for peace.

[Tubella] What role has Egypt played in the direct contacts between Israel and the PLO?

[Al-Baz] This matter has been greatly exaggerated. There is no direct negotiation between the Israeli Government and the PLO.

[Tubella] But 'Arafat has confirmed it....

[Al-Baz] 'Arafat was referring to conferences and seminars attended by Palestinian representatives—whether or not of the PLO—and Israeli officials, at which informal contacts can take place. But this cannot be regarded as a negotiating session; the negotiations are taking place in Washington.

[Tubella] The fundamentalist attacks on tourist targets in Egypt have increased. Would you be prepared to negotiate through the Muslim Brotherhood, as a lawful party?

[Al-Baz] These extremist groups which advocate violence claim that they are governed not by human laws but by the Koran. In order to have a right to form part of the political machinery, they must recognize the Constitution. If we were to negotiate with those who do not do so, we would be giving a small minority the right to impose conditions on the rest of society.

[Tubella] What political lesson have you learned from the situation in Algeria?

[Al-Baz] It cannot be compared with that of Egypt, but it has given us one argument: If parties based on religion are accepted, the consequences can be very grave.

[Tubella] What has been the impact of the fundamentalist campaign of violence on the tourism sector and the economy in general?

[Al-Baz] In fact, this is an extremist group with political—not religious or cultural—aims, which uses Islam as a cover and justification for its campaign. They propagate the use of violence against tourists, which is contrary to the true Islamic tradition of hospitality, and, what is more important, they are beginning to harm the interests of the Egyptians working in industries directly or indirectly connected with tourism and damaging the national economy. They (the attacks) have affected the pockets of 8 million Egyptians, and the losses from the beginning of 1992 total $3 billion per year. The decline in tourism bas not been as drastic as is said, but, even so, there has been an average fall of 18 percent in the inflow of tourists since September.

[Tubella] Mubarak said, after being appointed for a third term, that there would be an "all-out confrontation" with fundamentalism....

[Al-Baz] What the president said is that the problem must be tackled at various levels. We do not want the confrontation to be confined to security measures, because we are determined that Egypt should not become a police state. We are making an additional effort to boost police activity, to improve our education system...and, above all, we know that a large part of the problem is economic. For this reason, we are making a considerable investment effort to create jobs, especially in Upper Egypt and in certain areas of Cairo, which will make it possible to improve the quality of life in the most depressed areas. Thanks to this combination of measures, I believe that it will be possible to say at the end of this year that the problem (of fundamentalist violence) has been substantially reduced.

[Tubella] The fundamentalist could become a grave threat to the system...

[Al-Baz] The threat has been exaggerated, mainly from abroad. If the situation is examined closely, this is not the case. The number of extremists attacking tourist targets or advocating the use of violence does not exceed 15,000 people—a small group in a total population of around 60 million.

Foreign Minister: Progress in Peace Talks Possible

NC0608125493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed recent reports about progress in the Middle East peace negotiations as a result of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's contacts with the concerned parties during his current shuttle tour.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated today that Egypt has information that progress in the peace talks is now possible. He said Egypt has contacted the concerned parties to overcome any obtacles that might impede this progress.

Musa added: "We hope there will be progress in the talks and that they will be resumed soon."

Commentary Urges Cohesion in Palestinian Ranks

NC0808135893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Unity of Ranks Is a Major Test for the Cohesion of the Arab Position"]

[Text] In a sudden and serious turn of events, international agencies cite a Palestinian official that Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian Delegation to the peace talks; delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat; and official spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi have gone to Tunisia, site of the PLO headquarters, to tender their resignations to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

News agencies, as well as Israel, linked that move, which we describe as sudden and serious, with the end of the shuttle tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. According to the Israelis, there are differences among the Palestinians concerning what can be accepted or rejected among Christopher's proposals. These differences, however, do not justify such a drastic move that would give rise to wide speculation both in the circles hostile to as well as sympathetic with the Palestinians.

There is no doubt that it is in the interests of the Israelis to see inter-Palestinian differences exacerbated. The Israelis are known to benefit from inter-Arab differences. Asked about Israel's possession of the nuclear bomb, late Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan once said: We have a mightier weapon than the nuclear bomb, that of Arab divisions. Such a remark should give us pause. We have to measure our moves carefully so as not to play into the hands of those who refuse to acknowledge our rights.

The Egyptians have received with alarm the news about the resignations. The Egyptians have supported the Palestinian cause since the forties. Egyptian Armed Forces fought four wars, sacrificed thousands of martyrs, and spent billions of dollars in the hope that the brother Palestinians would see their rights restored. The path leading to that objective is that of Palestinian unity.

The Egyptian people and leadership have called repeatedly for maintaining the unity of Palestinian ranks in the face of all challenges and perils. President Husni Mubarak said more than once that cohesion of the Palestinian front is crucial for the restoration of the rights. President Mubarak always stated that Egypt supports the Palestinian brothers and has no desire to patronize or manipulate them.

Therefore, we have this to say: We hope from the bottom of our hearts—a hope sincerely shared by all Egyptians—that the Palestinian leadership will strive to maintain the cohesion of its stand and that the harmony among Palestinian groups will show no sign of cracks. This is the only way to restore the rights of the Palestinian people. The Egyptian leadership and people will always back the Palestinian people until they regain their legitimate rights.

Mubarak Receives Telephone Call From Saudi King

NC0608202593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] President Mubarak received this afternoon a telephone call from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The call comes within the framework of continuing contacts and discussions between the two Arab leaders with respect to bilateral, Arab, and Islamic issues.

Libya

Sudanese Revolution Command Member Arrives in Tripoli

LD0608171593 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, a member of the Revolution Command Council in the Sudan arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah and was greeted by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent the member of the Revolution Command Council, Al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir expressed the pleasure he felt at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

He said that this visit comes within the framework of the reciprocal contact being made between the two countries.

Al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the Revolution Command Council in the Sudan reiterated the solidarity and stand of the Sudan with the Great Jamahiriyah in its resistance to the harsh measures imposed on its people by Security Council Resolution 748.

In his statement, Al-Tijani called on all peace-loving countries to counter these measures.

Military Adviser to Chad President Arrives in Tripoli

LD0608172493 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mohammed 'Ali Abdallah, the military adviser to the Chadian President, Idriss Deby, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli.

Mauritania

President Taya Returns From France After 23 Days

AB0608182093 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 0730 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The Mauritanians have finally found their head of state again. After a somewhat mysterious absence of 23 days spent in France, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya returned to Nouakchott yesterday where he forthwith presided over a cabinet meeting. Salem Mezbour Salem gives us the details.

[Begin Salem recording] On his arrival at the airport the Mauritanian leader looked healthy, beaming with a smile. Some observers, however, found him to be too pale. This is evidence that the Sahelian leader did not get much sunlight during his stay in France. The reasons for his trip to France are still shrouded in great mystery. No communique nor official statement was issued to explain to Mauritanians why their head of state went to France on 2 July only to return on 4 August.

This trip was subjected to all kinds of speculation and alarmist rumors about the Mauritanian leader's state of health. Rumors had it that the Mauritanian leader was suffering from all kinds of serious diseases. These rumors, which worried the Mauritanian people, were widely commented on by the independent press in the absence of any official word.

It is the independent press which announced the departure of the Mauritanian head of state to France. After 23 days of confusion and uncertainty, the Mauritanian leader made it a point to reassure his people by convening the cabinet meeting over which he presided yesterday afternoon.

Generally, the Mauritanian weekly cabinet meeting is held every Wednesday. The Mauritanian cabinet has not met for the past three weeks. Yesterday evening, during its 2000 GMT major newscast, the Mauritanian television showed the Mauritanian leader apparently in good health.

Sources close to the presidency of the Republic, contacted by Africa No.1, hinted that President Ould Taya might even start a tour of Inchiri and Adrar regions—his native region—as of 10 August. In the interim, one can say that the government has really resumed its normal activities with the return of President Ould Taya. [end recording]

Morocco

King Hassan Issues Message on Privatization

LD0408224293 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani has chaired a government council meeting at which a number of bills were discussed. At the opening of the council, Abbas Kaissi, the government secretary general, read the text of a sublime message to the prime minister from His Majesty King Hassan II. The following is the text of the message:

[Begin recording] [Sadik Maaninou, secretary general of the Information Ministry] Praise be to God and peace and prayers on his messenger and his family and companions. The royal seal of Hassan Ben Mohamed Ben Youssef Ben Hassan. Our dear servant and Prime Minister Karim Lamrani, may God protect you. Peace and mercy be with you.

In the not so distant past, we decided that the state would privatize some public companies and enterprises it possessed or managed, partly or fully, for various financial, political, economic, and social reasons. We made that decision in order to free the state from burdens not originally incumbent upon it to deal with and because we noticed that the Moroccan private sector and national capital have become amply capable of performing the natural role assigned to them. The state initially assumed that role, because of the special circumstances which accompanied the early years of our independence. Our objective behind the decision to privatize was to stimulate a large sector of our national economy and to secure better exploitation of our savings, resorting to foreign technology and capital whenever the need for that arises. However, a number of national companies, of vital importance to our organization, are still under full state ownership. While we are currently anxious to maintain them as they are, we would like to make sure that they do not become a burden on the citizen in the future. On the contrary, we are anxious to make them a useful resource for all. Therefore, a spirit of firmness and proper management has to permeate them.

On those grounds, the government has to take the necessary measures to achieve that objective. Foremost among them is an in-depth study, to be carried out with the aim of giving us as true a picture as is possible of the conditions of those public companies and subsequently to suggest to us the ways and means of securing the best management and the lowest costs for them. A specialist international company could be commissioned to carry out the study.

As financial control has nowadays become running practice at companies and enterprises, you have to apply it in every public institution, as may be necessary. You are required to achieve this as soon as possible and to report back on the outcome to us. May God direct you. God's peace, mercy and blessings be with you. The royal palace, Rabat, 22 July. [end recording]

MAP, Yemeni News Agency Sign Exchange Accord

LD0708123893 Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 7 (MAP)—The Moroccan and Yemeni News Agencies "MAP" and "SABA" concluded here Friday a cooperation accord on the exchange and exploiting of news disseminated by their respective networks.

The accord was signed by MAP and SABA Directors General Abdeljalil Fenjiro and Yahya Saleh al-Choukani [names as received] on the fringes of the biannual meeting of the Secretariat General of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA). The two agencies laid the bases of cooperation in matters of exchange of information and experience and organization of training courses to the benefit of the two agencies' technical staff and newsmen.

Under the convention, the two sides pledge to give priority to the news broadcast by either agency when reporting on events related to Yemen or to Morocco.

The two agencies' technical departments will set the modalities for connecting the two networks and the scope of bilateral cooperation will be enlarged later on to exchanges between the photography and documentation departments.

The convention which entitles each of the two sides to distribute to its national network subscribers news produced by its partner also provides for coordination of action during Arab, Islamic, African and international gatherings.

During the signing ceremony, Fenjiro pointed out that the convention is being signed at the very moment FANA Secretariat General is convening in Rabat to review means of upgrading inter- Arab cooperation in information matters and voiced hope that other Arab news agencies will follow suit for a mutually beneficial cooperation.

Al-Choukani on his part said it is the first agreement of the kind SABA concludes with an Arab news agency underlining the importance of the accord which will enable the two agencies get first hand information on Yemen and Morocco without going through international news agencies.

Sudan

'Heavy Fighting' Reported Between Government, SPLA Forces

AB0608183393 Paris AFP in English 1801 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Nairobi, Aug 6 (AFP)—Heavy fighting has erupted between Sudanese government troops and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in southern Sudan, the rebels announced here Friday [6 August].

The SPLA led by John Garang said battle had been raging between the town of Yei and the location of Morobo for the last 10 days. It said the new fighting began with a government offensive code-named Sudan Al Izza launched from the garrison town of Yei on July 25.

According to the SPLA statement, the government offensive was aimed at capturing Kaya on the Ugandan border and dispersing some 75,000 displaced people in the nearby Yondu camp.

It said the biggest battle, which lasted six hours, was fought on Tuesday. This ended with 126 government troops killed, 185 wounded and 42 missing for 18 SPLA fighters killed and 30 wounded.

The SPLA statement also said that a recent government launched from Juba had been aimed at the camps of Ashwa, Ame and Attepi around Nimule, also on the Ugandan border, where over 150,000 displaced people have taken shelter.

The statement called on the U.N. Security Council and the international community in general to condemn the Sudanese government and its allied militias in the strongest terms and to take punitive measures against them.

Further Reportage on Fighting

AB0808220093 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 8 Aug 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In Sudan, fighting between the government and the forces of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]-Garang faction is continuing in the far south of the country, around Kaia, near the Ugandan border. Dr. Justin Yak Arok is the SPLA-Garang faction spokesman in Nairobi and has been in touch with his forces on the front line. Josephine Hazely caught up with him in Nairobi and on the line, asked him what his latest information on the fighting was:

[Begin recording] [Arok] Well, they have been saying that for the last 10 days, Khartoum has been having an attack on their positions and that they have been bombing civilian targets, mainly in (Penmorobo) and that they are now maintaining their position at Morobo, which is 24 miles away from Yei and (?16) miles from Kaia.

[Hazely] Did they say the bombardment was still continuing, or has it stopped a little bit?

[Arok] The bombardment was continuing until by the time I talked to them, they were being bombarded.

[Hazely] Now, what are the casualties? Did they tell you how many soldiers, probably, have died?

[Arok] No, they did not tell me how many soldiers have died, but there has been a lot of casualties both on the side of the government and on our side, there have been a few casualties, particularly at Kiai where the bombing had been a little bit effective, because that is mainly the civilian population place and [the civilians] would not know how to take cover when fighting happens. As for the soldiers, they know what to do. They run into their trenches and I think when they take cover, casualties are minimized within the soldiers except among the civilian population.

[Hazely] So, there had not been hand-to-hand combat between the government troops and your SPLA-Garang faction troops?

[Arok] No, there has not been hand-to-hand combat except ambushes somewhere before they reach the target-town town of Morobo, which is their main target. And therefore, the hand-to-hand combat is expected if they assault Morobo town. As I told you this morning, they had called in aerial bombardment on Morobo and Kaia—maybe to soften the SPLA target. But the Garang-SPLA soldiers are still holding their positions in the ground. [end recording]

Government, Rebel Delegations Meet in Upper Nile State

EA0708163093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Two delegations from the government and the united factions of the rebel movement (Sudanese People's Liberation Army-united) paid a visit to Fashoda area in the Upper Nile State on Wednesday [4 August] to congratulate (?the head) of the shilluk on the occasion of his installation. The two delegations discussed the peace issue and the delivery of relief to those affected and the preservation of security and stability. The government's delegation included Police Colonel (Paul Reth Kuang), governor of Upper Nile State; Ahmad al-Radi Jabir, chairman of the Peace Committee in the transitional National Assembly; and Fadl al-Sid Abu Qusaysah, minister of state and director general of the Peace and Development Foundation.

The delegation of the unified factions of the rebel movement included Dr. lam Akol, (Ja'far Yang) and (John Yot). Mr. Ahmad al-Radi Jabir explained that (?the head) of the shilluk confirmed his stand with the revolution and that he would work for peace and stability through dialogue between the government and the rebel movement. His Excellency added that the government delegation's meeting with the unified factions involved serious discussion of the peace issue.

Foreign Minister, UN Envoy Discuss Relief Operations

EA0608201093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Aug (SUNA)—The minister of foreign affairs has emphasized the government adherence to its duty towards the war-affected people in southern Sudan and supporting them with food and other required needs.

In his meeting Friday [6 August] with the visiting United Nations envoy for humanitarian affairs in Sudan (Ferry Tracksteller), Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih said the government supported the UN-controlled relief operations in the south with 153,000 tonnes of dura (millet). Dr. Abu Salih reviewed the government cooperation with the UN and international community which was reflected on signature of many agreements on relief operations facilitation [sentence as received].

In the light of the government commitment to cease fire, the minister confirmed the sole matter which led to deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the south is the current armed dispute between the outlaws' factions.

Dr. Abu Salih expressed Sudan's welcome to any assistance by the UN to fulfill the needs of the war-stricken people, particularly in the field of rehabilitation in order to reach the stage of self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

The UN envoy's visit is a good chance for him to stand on the humanitarian situations in the south and reflect the facts to the world community, Dr. Abu Salih said. The foreign media disfigured Sudan's portrait as regards the matter, he added.

The UN envoy informed the minister on his mission objectives in reviewing the humanitarian affairs, food delivering to the affected people and evaluation of Operation Lifeline Sudan and the agreements signed between the UN and Sudan in the field of relief. (Tracksteller) said success of his visit to Sudan would constitute a leading example in other similar states.

Mr. (Tracksteller) and Dr. Abu Salih agreed on the importance of mapping out a strict programme of work for the relief materials distribution, a reliable source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told SUNA.

During his five-day stay in Sudan the UN envoy is scheduled to meet a number of ministers and specialists on issues pertinent to his humanitarian task, besides paying visits to the southern Sudan and the [word indistinct] camps in the north. He arrived in Khartoum on Thursday accompanied with the UN deputy secretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

Spokesman Denies State Gives Refuge to Terrorists

EA0708193093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Aug (SUNA)—Commenting on the tendency to include Sudan on the list of states giving refuge to terrorists, Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the official spokesman at the Abuja peace talks, said in a press statement that his recent visit to the United States had revealed the lack of seriousness in the viewpoints presented last year on the basis of which a decision was issued to exclude the name of Sudan from the list of states giving refuge to terrorism.

His Excellency added that the fact that the chairman of the Congressional Subcommittee on African Affairs did not visit Sudan, giving the excuse that his aircraft was damaged, in spite of the fact that he visited the countries bordering Sudan yet later recommended on his return that Sudan should be included in the list of terrorist states should be regarded as no more than a provocation against Sudan and its cultural orientation.

Kuwait

Defense Minister To Sign Defense Pact With Russia

LD0708200093 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 7, SPA—Kuwait's Defense Minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah will visit Russia from September 23 to 26 to sign a defense agreement, diplomatic sources said on Saturday [7 August].

The agreement will be the fourth between Kuwait and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council since the Gulf War in 1991 brought an end to the seven months of the Iraqi occupation.

The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on the agreement during a visit by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in February.

Kuwait signed similar agreements with the U.S., France and Britain and plans for similar [agreement] with China.

Meanwhile, Kuwait agreed on Saturday to buy an undisclosed number of British-made Warrior armored personnel carriers, the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY said.

The agreement was signed by the Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah and the British Ambassador William Fullerton as the first major defense contract between the two countries since the Gulf War in 1991.

The Warrior is made by engineering company GKN plc.

British Envoy Denies Commissions Paid on Warrior Deal

LD0908081893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0621 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 9 Aug (KUNA)—In a press interview published here today, British Ambassador to Kuwait William Fullerton has denied reports on an agreement to obtain a commission for the recently signed contract between Kuwait and Britain for Warrior armored vehicles. He reaffirmed that the UK Government strongly opposes commissions and did not pay any. This information came in the British ambassador's reply, during an exclusive interview with Kuwait's "AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM," to statements from some parliamentary sources regarding the existence of commissions and payments amounting to 30 percent of the value of the Warrior contract concluded between Kuwait and Britain.

The British Ambassador pointed out that the draft contract for the Warrior armored vehicles is strongly worded [lahjah shadidah] and ruled out any form of the prohibited commissions or mediation, saying that "the British Government is answerable to the Kuwaiti Government regarding the conditions of the contract and the good quality of the equipment." [passage omitted]

Kuwait and Britain signed an agreement on Saturday to directly supply the Kuwaiti army with armored personnel carriers of the Warrior class. The agreement was signed on behalf of Kuwait by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah and on behalf of Britain by Ambassador to Kuwait William Fullerton.

Official Views Tighter U.S. Controls on Passports

LD0808151393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Aug (KUNA)—The consular department at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry today noted that the U.S. security authorities have implemented specific measures for Kuwaiti passport-holders at points of entry into the United States, including taking fingerprints and photographs of the passport holder.

Ambassador Jasim Muhammad Bahman, director of the consular department, said in a statement to KUNA that these measures are being applied to holders of old and new passports, because the U.S. Administration wants to ensure that stolen Kuwaiti passports will not be used to enter the United States. These measures will also guard against the unauthorized use of these passports.

He indicated that these measures are temporary and said he hopes circumstances will allow them to be withdrawn in the near future.

Qatar

Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan Pays Two-Day Visit

Engages in Official Talks 8 Aug

JN0808131993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Dispatch from the Qatari radio]

[Excerpt] Brothers in the fraternal Kingdom of Jordan: May God's peace and blessings be upon you. We greet you from Doha. Official talks were held at the Qatari amir's office this afternoon between the State of Qatar, led by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the deputy amir and heir apparent, and the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, led by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal.

Several senior officials from both sides attended the session. The talks, which were permeated by a spirit of understanding, focused on relations between the two brotherly countries and eagerness to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The two sides discussed the prospects for greater bilateral relations and the steps to promote them. They focused on political, economic, trade, and educational fields in order to achieve progress for both peoples and realize mutual interests.

Talks also dealt with the current Arab situation and the issue of Arab accord and solidarity. The two sides discussed ways to provide an appropriate atmosphere for the constructive efforts and ongoing endeavors to reunify the Arab ranks. They also stressed respect for both international legitimacy and the sovereignty of each state in support of joint Arab action and in the service of pan-Arab issues and the Arab nation's interests.

Regarding the Middle East issue, the two sides reviewed the regional peace process. They stressed the need to achieve a lasting and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as the land-for-peace principle and Israel's unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Talks also dealt with the situation in southern Lebanon and the recent Israeli aggression. This aggression was a violation of international norms and human rights. The two sides stressed the need to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for a full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. Talks also dealt with several international issues of mutual concern.

Observers believe that the Qatari welcome of, and interest in, His Highness Prince Hasan Bin-Talal's visit reaffirms the Qatari political policy designed to avoid the negative aspects of the current phase the Arab nation is experiencing. This phase has shown the need to work for the unification of the Arab ranks and to give priority to the nation's supreme pan-Arab interest.

His Highness Prince Hasan Bin-Talal arrived in Doha this morning, accompanied by a senior Jordanian delegation, on a two-day visit to the State of Qatar. He was accorded an official reception ceremony at Doha International Airport. His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani led those who welcomed him. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

JN0808203293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Aug 93

[News conference by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan in Doha on 8 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Hasan] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Allow me to express my gratitude to the invitation extended to me from His Highness Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad, and for the trip outside Doha. This is a blessed fraternal meeting, during which I conveyed greetings of love and brotherhood from His Majesty King Husayn to my people and brothers here in fraternal Qatar. I would like to reiterate that the difficult period we have experienced and are experiencing—before, during, and, if we can say, after the Gulf crisis and war, even if the repercussions are still eating up the Arab body and the balances of stability in this delicate region of the world—I would like to reiterate that our main objective is to be true to ourselves and to our brothers, and this is a must. I also would like to stress that our policy at this stage toward the reconciliation that has been called for by the Arab League, and we thank it for this, is preceded by frankness. This issue must not become an extraordinary measure or an issue confined to this particular time. We believe that the issue of collective security—and here a quote the Koran: "Who provides them with food against hunger, and with security against fear of danger"—that security basically begins with oneself. It seems to me that the media have a great duty to maintain this good-willed interaction among the sons of the one tribe. [passage omitted]

The objective of this, God knows, is to stress the need for solidarity, and to search for the means to achieve solidarity based on the one common denominator—comprehensive security, the desired cooperative security. [passage omitted]

Regarding bilateral relations with the State of Qatar, with the brothers here, I would like to reiterate our desire and concern for resuming action through the signed agreements. Of course, we want to exert serious efforts towards the supervision of cultural cooperation through an advisory committee. I believe, regrettably, that the Qatari media's message does not reach us, and neither does the Jordanian message reach you in a coordinated way. In fact, it is time for us to begin to address each other directly, rather than only across outer space. It is time for the family to address the family and the brothers address their brothers.

Concerning trade and economic cooperation, there is an agreement that dates back to the eighties. Regarding vocational training, I would like to express my admiration for the regional center here for vocational training, particularly regarding ports and petrochemicals. There are other examples of cooperation. However, I would like to reiterate that it is necessary to develop a joint view of a new pattern of cooperation for the coming decade. A vision that will save us from the problems that existed in our march in the past, and that will enable us to tackling any problems that emerge in the framework of Arab cooperation. This is what I wanted to say. I repeat my thanks to the brothers here in the media family. Of course, first and foremost, I reiterate my appreciation for the invitation extended to me and to the Jordanian delegation from his highness the heir apparent to visit Doha. I believe that this visit, God willing, will be useful and a good opening for all of us.

[Reporter] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Highness the Crown Prince, on behalf of all the representatives of the media family here in the State of Qatar, we welcome this blessed visit, which, God willing, will be successful. Your Highness, at the beginning, let me first keep away from the traditional question on the results of this visit. Let me speak about what concerns the Arab citizen and what has recently happened in the Arab region. Jordan rejected the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon. His Majesty King Husayn has said that this aggression could affect the

Middle East peace process. Following this aggression, and in light of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region and his remarks in occupied Jerusalem that the peace process has been salvaged, what is the Jordanian view of the future of the peace process that began in Madrid to resolve the Palestine question, taking into consideration Israel's indifference to achieving any substantial progress on the Palestinian track during the past 10 rounds of negotiations.

[Hasan] I thank you for pointing out that the current concept of peace was conceived over 18 months ago. [as heard] In fact, it is fair to say that the peace process is not only at an impasse, but with the massive Israeli attack on Lebanon, a comprehensive solution is now at risk. Insofar as the Palestinian issue, Jerusalem, the occupied territories, and the Gaza strip are concerned, I believe the Palestinian negotiators have shown themselves to be energetic and courageous in arguing the Palestinian case. We have stood by them under the umbrella of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that went to the Madrid peace conference. I would like to emphasize here that the Palestinians have the final say. As you must know, the ministers of the cordon states are set to meet shortly in Beirut, and they must be deeply concerned about how to approach the political move in a comprehensive way. Naturally, I mean, specifically, that there is a big difference between the final shape of peace envisaging liberation and the establishment of a state and self-determination that would cooperatively lead to conferderal ties between an independent Palestinian state and a free independent Jordan, and the interim stage, which naturally shrinks the size and the economic and social dimensions that do not recognize Palestinian rights on the ground. I think Christopher's tour was of major importance because it reminded the world that, as the sponsor of the Madrid conference, the United States is still committed to the peace process. His visit to the Middle East capitals, Damascus in particular, underlined the importance of Syria at this stage of the peace efforts. Here I would like to stress that when we discuss Syria and Lebanon and the Palestinian dimension, we are really talking about the components of a comprehensive settlement. We in Jordan back any effort to get the sponsor involved. But, as I understood today, two or three members of the Palestinian negotiating team have tendered their resignation, something that has me and other observers worried. This is because such people have shown moral courage by volunteering to shoulder their responsibilities. I do not know how we will be able, in the foreseeble future, to reconcile the requirements of inter-Arab coordination and those of the American sponsor as we prepare for the next round in Washington.

Before the proposal of an Arab League official plan, we hope will be able to take official positions. I also hope we will bypass formalities in our brotherly dialogue. At least, there should be calls explaining the damages the continued estrangement is causing, as well as the positive elements in moving toward a responsible dialogue, during which we will not lose amity if we maintain some different interpretations. I am afraid that if we begin to move toward frankness and reconciliation, this frankness, as a method, may need years of well-prepared conferences. But time does not allow that, and the confused international circumstances, the contradictory challenges in the Arab homeland—if we can use this term, which I think we can as every one believes—and the Islamic nation show that major dangers are harming our identity and entity. [passage omitted]

Allow me here to ask a question, which should not necessarily be asked in this conversation. However, before coming to Doha, I expected the question: What about the past? I can answer by saying frankly that it is difficult to build the future based on selectivity and past positions or doubts. Let me read the following conversation which I held with the ABC on 12 August 1990.

Question: Shouldn't anyone eject Iraq from Kuwait as a future step?

Answer: I believe that this was clarified to the Iraqis. We were clear in condemning the acquisition of land by war and in calling for a withdrawal and for refraining from changing the political system.

Question: Explain to me why people in Amman—this was in 12 August 1990—support Saddam Husayn, while the West considers him a butcher and a dictator?

Answer: Do you not see that Israel has been occupying Palestinian land for 23 years? There are many international examples of the acquisition of land by war. The world this time moved within one week to mass forces.

I would like to say that when we review the regrettable past events, the fragmentation of the Arab land, the human and material losses, and the problem of 1 million Iraqi children under the age of five, who, according to a UNICEF report which has not yet been published, are facing death within six months, one's heart is torn apart. When we talk about the Kuwaiti captives, we recall that all our governments tried to solve the problem with the Iraqi Government. As I know, there was a proposal to form a neutral committee to discuss the issue. But the solution is not in our hands and it cannot be attained immediately. What is important is that we have to be sincere with ourselves and with the events.

Naturally, there are other issues that have had a direct impact, perhaps the most important of them being Sarajevo and the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was on Mr. Christopher's agenda in his recent tour. All in all, I am under the impression that the U.S. is devoting its attention to this issue—that is, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Middle East stability. Which brings me back to Arab solidarity. Only in the presence of Arab solidarity, can we have a serious approach to the aggression on southern Lebanon and the Arab retreat on the Palestinian and Arab fronts. But as things stand, the minimum level of the solidarity we wish for is lacking. Hence, the failure of the Arabs to exert moral or material pressure. We have to take stock of the situation and take the initiative before we call on others to play a serious role.

[Reporter] Your Highness, Prince Hasan: The Arab world is, at present, suffering from ambiguity in its outlook on Arab solidarity. How does Jordan, as one of the countries pursuing the restoration of Arab solidarity, feel about this?

[Hasan] I hope that all the Arab states are interested in a crystallized form of cooperation. As you know, the Arab office at the United Nations is the outcome of decades of work. After a protracted struggle we managed to make Arabic one of the official languages at the United Nations. However, Arab interest seems to be focused on regional groupings like the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Maghreb Union, and Arab-African cooperation, with the Arab office at the United Nations almost the victim of small entities, important as they are. The Arab individual must ask how much longer the isolation and estrangement of Arab from Arab will continue. The outside world is now coining adjectives to describe us. In 1975, the Arab East—Syria, Jordan, and Egypt—signed an agreement with the EC. I regret to say that the Arab East description did not come from just one side; it came also from the European side, as if they use the word Maghreb vis-a-vis the Arab East. While on the subject of Arab solidarity, let me say that I have a personal interest in Arab thought and would like to see Arab thinkers promote the idea of Arab thought forums.

Here, allow me to finish reading the ABC interview with the following question which speaks about cost:

Question: Will Jordan meet the UN call for the imposition of sanctions? Answer: Jordan will suffer greatly when it implements sanctions. Jordan has recognized the text, which was approved by the United Nations. Jordan considers the UN resolutions binding, but many countries which are bigger and richer have asked to be compensated for implementing the sanctions. These sanctions, in fact, are implemented on Jordan in the first place. Once I was invited to meet with the then UN Secretary of General Perez de Cuellar in November 1990 to confess that Jordan was the first to be affected—as Bulgaria and Romania are affected by the sanctions imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Visit the port of al-'Aqabah and see that there are only three or four ships there. The annual loss is in hundreds of millions. One asks how long will these restrictions continue? One also asks when 3,080 ships headed for the port of al-'Aqabah from various ports only four ships were inspected. Why to continue with the force, and 24 ships were intercepted. [last two sentences as heard] Why are these continuous restrictions on Jordan? Our borders with all neighboring countries are not commercial borders in terms of commercial exchange these days. This is not what I mean, but in fact I am speaking about a future concept and Arab solidarity, and I say that we are in dire need to clarify a concept for future cooperation, God willing.

[Reporter] You have raised, more than once, the importance of Arab solidarity in the next stage, and you stressed, in particular, the importance of solidarity and cooperation, which includes security and coordination between states. In light of your highness's full knowledge of the economic situation in Jordan, to what extent has the halt in Gulf aid affected the Jordanian economy? Has Jordan been able to overcome the stage of aid? This is the first part of the question. The second part is: Have the cool Jordanian-Iraqi relations any economic effects on the ground?

[Hasan] The country realized—despite all obstacles—an 8 percent growth during the past two years. We are speaking about good figures regarding overall achievements. However, when we speak about Jordan, which hosted about more than 400,000 returnees from the battlefields in the Gulf after the earthquake of 1990-1991, we speak about a country that is suffering from the third wave of refugees. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Has your highness a specific concept for Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, particularly after the Gulf crisis? Do you consider your visit to the State of Qatar the onset of a new era and preparation for an early visit [to Qatar] by the Jordanian monarch?

[Hasan] In fact, I would like to address the hearts and consciences of every man and every Arab brother regardless of differences and backgrounds, ideological schools, and social sectors, and ask them to let our consciences judge. There may be differences in viewpoints, but I have great hope that we will not differ that we, as Arabs and Muslims, should live on this land in dignity with our heads high, and face the challenges, using the language of modern times, through power and faith in Almighty God, and our ability to deal with the challenges of the age through greater participation by the members of the same society, more sacrifices within the same society and within the framework of the Arab society, which has numerous talented capabilities. I have great hope that this visit to Qatar will actually be the resumption of a process, not the onset of an era. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Five-Party 'National Opposition Bloc' Formed

PM0608154793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Aug 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Five Yemeni Opposition Parties Endorse National Opposition Bloc Document"]

[Text] Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Five Yemeni opposition parties have drawn up a document to form an alliance among themselves under the name "National Opposition Bloc." This comes in the wake of a series of meetings over the past few months which included extensive talks among their leaders, a number of national figures, and some independent deputies. The aim is to defend constitutional legitimacy and to adhere to democracy, based on party and political pluralism and the peaceful transfer of power.

Informed sources have emphasized that the Nasirite Popular Unionist Organization, the League of Yemen's Sons, the Truth Party, the Yemeni Unionist Grouping, and the Yemeni Popular Forces Union all stress the need to defer to legal establishments and an independent judiciary and to work within the framework of a unified plan in order to combat corruption and to protect public funds.

They also reject any amendment to the Constitution unless it is through a national consensus and it follows a broad-based, comprehensive popular dialogue. They make their claims on the grounds that the opposition is part of the political system along with the ruling coalition comprising the Yemeni Reform Grouping, the General People's Congress, and the Socialist Party.

The opposition declaration document—which will be officially signed soon—declined taht the role assigned to it is "to assess and monitor the state's policy, to work to implement the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the national conference of Yemeni political parties and organizations (which was held last September), to respect constitutional rights, to adopt all the peaceful means permissible to the opposition, and to reject all forms of violence."

The opposition parties are expected to draw up periodical time schedules every three months to be supervised by a permanent joint leadership from the bloc, comprised of the higher leading committees of the parties participating in the bloc. Its meetings will be held monthly. It will run its operations through branches in the 18 governorates. These branches will be formed from opposition party leaders in every governorate.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a number of independent parliamentary figures participated in the preparation for forming the national bloc. At the same time, efforts are being made to form a parliamentary national opposition bloc from among the independent deputies, to work to unite the opposition inside and outside the parliament, and to unite efforts to confront any attempt to circumvent democracy.

Yemeni opposition sources pointed out that the formation of the "opposition bloc" represents a "step to unite the small parties, to end the fragmentation and division which led to their faililing to win sufficient parliamentary seats in the recent general elections, to protect them from blackmail attempts and prevent them from turning into a card in the hands of others, to consolidate a sound democracy, and to define the dividing line between the ruling forces and the opposition forces in order to avoid the confusion which prevailed in the past."

Saddam Address on Anniversary of War With Iran

JN0808100793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0705 GMT 8 August 93

[Address by President Saddam Husayn on the fifth anniversary marking the end of the eight-year Iraq-Iran war—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O ye who believe! If ye will help the cause of God, He will help you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

O great people, O sons of the glorious nation, O gallant men of our valiant Armed Forces: Peace be upon you. Today, 8 August, the Iraqis recall and celebrate the fifth anniversary marking the victory day. They recall this day's implications and immortal lessons, which are the outcome of an eight-year conflict of wills, principles, and civilizations. This conflict started on 4 September 1980, when the Iranian regime launched its massive military aggression against the sovereignty, dignity, and security of Iraq. It lasted until we issued the communique of communiques on the immortal decisive day of 8 August 1988. Recalling and celebrating this honorable outcome and clear victory, we reiterate our thanks to God Almighty, the defender of right, virtue, principles of sound faith, and the rights of honorable, faithful men. We beseech omnipresent God to watch over the Iraq of faith, virtue, right, and glory. We beseech Him to have mercy on our martyrs and to bring them closer to the status they deserve in heaven, God willing. The martyrs are our model in sacrifice and faith. They are the masthead of our banner of faith. When we shout with a loud, firm voice: God is great, our only reward will be that of those who rise to defend their faith and rights in the face of injustice, tyranny, and shame. May God have mercy on our martyrs. We thank you, Lord of the mujahidin and wronged people. Thanks and glory to our righteous martyrs and the martyrs of our nation throughout its land and countries. Thanks to the martyrs. God is great.

Brothers, friends: In this speech, I am going to deal with the lessons of a conflict and fight which we waged in our own style. In this battle, our Armed Forces and their back and depth, the great Iraqi people, waged a bloody conflict that lasted eight successive years, day and night, in various locations. Thus, it may not be possible to cover all the prominent events, developments, lessons, aspects, moral strength, experience, and knowledge that this conflict has given Iraq and the Arab nation without at least conducting a minimum review of the situation that prevailed with the two sides of the conflict before it culminated in its most serious development. That was on 4 September 1980, when a serious military aggression against Iraq began. That conflict lasted until God led it to its known outcome thanks to the will of the mujahidin of the second al-Qadisiyah battle, or what the mujahidin call the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, as a summation and symbolization of the nature of the conflict and what the mujahidin, having relied on God, willed its outcome to be. When we started our massive response to the aggression on 22 September 1980, it was described as a confrontation which was both a necessity and an option.

Iraqi patriotism, at that time, in its overall view of government and the modern state, and its standards, rights, and duties, was still not embodying the firm meanings it should have embodied. This was because this patriotism had long been absent, starting from the last important and convincing government in the last Babylonian age and until the state of the center of faith was established in Baghdad, Iraq, during the Abbasid age.

Iraq became the center of the state of faith. However, the Iraqi distinctiveness and its creativity did not take place and achieve results independently. This creativity was part of Arab and Islamic action, creativity, and responsibility. Then came frustration and its results, which prevailed in the hearts and minds of people after Baghdad, the symbol, turned into an almost open ground. The Persians and Turks ruled and controlled Baghdad under various names and banners.

Baghdad, and all Iraq, remained in this situation until the Ottomans handed over what was available to the British and those who shared interests and agreements with them. At that time, the 17-30 July revolution march began to gain ascendance with steady steps on the level of principles so that after the intense suffering and the many setbacks on the pan-Arab and country level it would present the nation with a model that would enable it, thanks to what the march in Iraq could produce, to highlight the living seeds and the sound path of faith within the Arab personality to act as a vanguard for the faithful people in both ordeals and constructions.

On the other side, there was a mixture of those who were blindfolded by the victory over the shah of Iran, along with opportunists and agents of the foreigner who harbored ill intentions against the Iraqi people and the Arab nation, and perhaps the Iranian peoples as well. Thus, both planning and premeditation merged in the minds of those in the Iranian leadership who were misled by the devil. Hence, they imagined that it was possible to build a Persian empire under deviant slogans which falsified tolerant Islam, so such an empire would first extend to the Arab east and afterward to the Arab maghreb in a way that would put the Islamic nation at their disposal.

What contributed to the Iranian rulers' failure to conceive the abyss and to shortsightedly view their aims was the sweeping support the Iranian people, charged with various feelings and illusions, displayed for all that their rulers said or ordered at the start of the battle. These rulers were also encouraged by our nation's sons in their toppling of the Iranian shah, who was known for his role in harming the Arab nation. The Arabs imagined that changing the rulers of Iran might change Iran's policy toward the Arab nation and every call for deviation and subversion of the Muslims' unity—a unity willed by

Almighty God through His noble prophet, believers are like the bricks of a building, one supports the other. God's prophet speaks the truth.

Persia's role and destructive conquests against the Arabs before Islam, which reached Yemen in the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt at the other Arab end, also encouraged them to try to achieve such a dream, without recalling the other side of its bitter lessons. Following the occupation, the Arabs expelled the invasion forces, inflicting on them what was supposed to be the inevitable result and the land of Persia then returned to its natural borders.

This was paralleled by encouragement from world Zionism through its well-known means, part of which was exposed in 1981. What was exposed was little compared with reality. An air bridge was established to transport weapons from the Zionist entity to Iran. There was also the American-Zionist plot in 1985, which was called Irangate, and what is linked to it in terms of the unwarranted Western scheme against Iraq. One of the most important results of this plot was the occupation of beloved al-Faw in 1986 by the Iranian forces of invasion and occupation.

The shouts of those blinded by the power they inherited from the shah of Iran, also encouraged them to commit this aggression. This power consisted of a Western arsenal of weapons rarely found in the region. It also consisted of an army intended to stop the advance of the Warsaw Pact armies and inflict serious losses on them before the Western allies' armies could reach the region once the armies and fleets of the Soviet Union and its allies decide to advance at anytime toward the warm waters of the Arabian Gulf, the Arabia Sea, and the Indian Ocean in order to take control of the sources of energy, especially since 65 percent of oil exists in the land of the Arabs.

The deafening shouts of those maniacs, whose minds were filled with these dreams, racist grudges, and deviationst creeds, used to shut off ears to the call of faith, virtue, and glory. They also terrified those who could not firmly adhere to the principles of faith, manliness, and fervor and who failed to invoke the meanings and values of the nation of prophets. Other forces languished under their thrones and seats and their knees could no longer hold them up. Wo then to their knees.

The new Iranian regime began to address and view the Arab nation and Iraq, which is the Arab nation's eastern border, with a supercilious attitude without asking God's fogiveness and without seeking His protection from the devil.

From the premise of such a situation and approach, the Iranian aggression began. They set fire to the Iraqi consulate in al-Muhammarah [Khorramshar] and Kermanshah [Bakhtaran], ransacking them and humiliating their employees. They then attacked our embassy in Tehran and its employees were humiliated, as well as the Iraq Airways offices in Tehran. They opened fire on foreign vessels which used to frequent Iraqi ports for trade purposes. The attacks against our border posts recurred and totaled 244 incidents. Iranian planes violated our airspace 249 times in acts of aggression and provocation. Fire was opened on our civilian planes three times. We lodged 294 memorandums of complaint, enlightenment, and warning against these hostile acts to the Iranian Foreign Ministry. The Iranian Embassy in Iraq and its branches became centers of espionage and aggression. They organized many acts of aggression and exchange of fire, and hurled hand grenades at a student celebration in al-Mustansiriyah University, which wounded comrade Tariq 'Aziz and killed some students, and wounded others. Martyr Firyal Nusayyif, the student at the Faculty of Education, is only one example of this aggression. They were as vain as the devil himself and attacked with hand grenades the funeral procession of martyr Firyal Nusayyif and martyr student Taha 'Abd-al-Rahman. Other mourners were also wounded, including Arab Ba'th Party National Command Member comrade Badr-al-Din Muddaththir. The acts of aggression did not stop there. One of their agents hurled a hand grenade at former information minister comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, wounding him.

Iran's acts of aggression have reached a point where it is difficult to review them in detail and with the degree of accuracy necessary in a speech such as this. All this took place before their more serious aggression against the cities of Iraq; Mandali, Khanaqin, Zurbatiyah, and al-Basrah on and after 4 September 1980.

We used to exercise all the patience we could muster in the face of this aggression, and at all times, we used to ask for God's help against the devil. We used to rely on God in every assessment we made to have Almighty God avert from us what He viewed as an evil he does not wish for the faithful.

But at the same time, we realized the dimensions of these acts of aggression and the attempt to escalate them to topple Iraq so that the entire region will become exposed to Iran's designs and the fantasies of the mad, who would effortlessly enter it after the collapse of the great dam. The lessons of the past with all their dimensions and meanings were being recalled and were not forgotten. It was as clear to us as the impact the trenchant sword of faith will have when it it brandished over the shoulders of those whom God had made blind that the nation cannot suffer another defeat. Such a defeat, if destined to take place, God forbid, will lead the nation to the darkest corners of the abyss and defeatism.

It was also evident to those of us with conviction that God has wished, and that this is the result of faith and the noble and mujahid origin of our peoples, that we will not hand over Iraq so long as we are alive and so long as the Iraqis continue to harbor national feelings that no oppressive power can wrest from them. No, we will not hand over Iraq.

Thus, the good men rushed to the rescue after matters reached their climax and after the acts of aggresssion took the form of a war against Iraq on 4 September 1980. After this, the battle with its purported meanings, designs, and circumstances took place against us, not to mention the meanings, designs, interferences, and descriptions we have mentioned and which apply to the Iranian side.

Six days after our decisive reply to the large-scale Iranian aggression, we opened a door to peace lest a ray of wisdom and clarity filter through into the minds of the Tehran rulers. On 28 September 1980 and from a position of strength and not weakness, we announced Iraq's readiness to stop the fighting because we are not warmongers but peace advocates and the promoters of a message. After this, UN Security Council Resolution No. 479 was issued on 28 September 1980 which called on the two parties to cease fire and negotiate. We accepted the resolution and Iran rejected it. On 30 September 1980, late Pakistani President Ziaul Haq in his capacity as the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] chairman, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal, and ICO Secretary General Habib al-Chatti visited Iraq. The Pakistani president suggested that Iraq unilaterally announces a cease-fire to encourage the Iranian leaders to review their stand and give the ICO mediation a chance.

Although such an idea involves known complications for two armies engaged in combat, Iraq responded positively. Iran, for its part, rejected that proposal. Afterward, on 28 January 1981, the Islamic conference set up a good offices committee under Guinean President late Ahmed Sekou Toure. The committee comprised as members PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; the presidents of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Gambia; the Turkish prime minister; the foreign ministers of Malaysia and Senegal, and the ICO secretary general. From 1 March 1981, this committee carried out several visits between Baghdad and Tehran to halt hostilities and prevent further bloodshed. The committee's efforts were rejected by Iran.

Afterward, Iraq responded to the call of duty and to an appeal by the good offices committee. Thus, on 10 June 1982, Iraq decided to withdraw from Iranian territory. However, Iran reiterated its stubborn determination to continue the war. After the Iranian leadership's rejection of all political attempts, we began to explain to the Iranian people the perils to which they were being dragged by their leadership. We addressed six open letters to the Iranian peoples from 1983 to 1987. In those letters we explained in detail the aspects and results of the aggression affecting the Iranian people on the political, military, political, and social, religious levels. Our letters included new offers for peace, among which were a cease-fire at sea, opening the two countries' commercial ports, refraining from attacking cities and villages, and maintaining a temporary truce in the blessed month of Ramadan until the Iranian leadership is convinced of the utility of the comprehensive cease-fire and to move ahead to end the dispute.

Our proposals fell on deaf ears in Tehran. Other proposals to establish peace that we offered in the years 1985, 1986, 1987 did not receive any response from the Iranian leadership. The UN Security Council issued on 20 July 1987 Resolution No. 598 in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. However, the Iranian leadership, and the imperialist quarters and opportunistic quarters in the big countries continued to procrastinate and maneuver with respect to the implementation of this resolution although it came in accordance with Chapter 7. That state continued until the heroes of al-Qadisiyah made their well-known assaults in the major successive battles of liberation, starting with the liberation of dear al-Faw at the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan in a series of well-known military operations code-named the Blessed Ramadan operations.

When war with Iran began on 4 September 1980, neither the Iraqi people nor their valiant Armed Forces had for ages been engaged in such a comprehensive and tough experience despite their experience in confronting challenges on another level which cannot be compared with this one under their jihad, militant, and revolutionary circumstances in the pan-Arab and national arenas.

This is how, brothers, the battle began. These were the basic directions of its circumstances and what preceded and accompanied it. It continued to be tough, but derived its fundamentals from its meanings in the minds of the muhajidin believers, heroes and leaders of the al-Qadisiyah battle. Because it was a just and glorious battle for us, God granted us victory after many lessons replete with values, steadfastness, and great meanings throughout eight years of fighting. There came a splendid victory which we passed on to the nation and people and to the forces of jihad in the communique of all communiques and the day of all days, which we are commemorating now and celebrating every year. On this day, we glorify and greet our generous martyrs and their steadfast families for the meanings of martyrdom and patriotism they displayed. We also greet our prisoners who are still in the Iranian detention camps. These have continued to uphold their patriotism and the standards of those principled, steadfast, and patient ones.

The Iranian rulers did what was not done by any except their likes in more than one field and case, most prominent among which was the mass extermination of prisoners on the battlefronts after tying them up and killing prisoners in detention camps. They continue to seize our war and civilian aircraft which we deposited with them under the circumstances of the Mother of Battles. They also played a treacherous, destructive role in the chapter of treason and treachery. They kept our prisoners in captivity after we released all their prisoners, in addition to many other actions which would embarrass the speaker when he says that this occurred in a country where those ruling it repeat that they represent an Islamic regime, that their country's potentials should be used in service of Muslims and not against them or against the values, standards, and principles of noble Islam.

O Almighty God: Be witness to the two sides and help every rightful owner to obtain his right. O God, they and the Hafar al-Batin people have harmed the Muslims and disgraced them among nations by their foul actions and bad intentions. Guide them to the path of virtue and faith if you so wish, O merciful God, or keep their hearts burdened with the agonies of error and drowned with filth if they cannot be guided. You are the source of guidance for those you love, and you are the one who ordains agony and annihilation of the stray ones, O God of the universe. God is great, God is great, and accursed by the lowly.

Cabinet Congratulates Saddam

JN0808063593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its ordinary weekly meeting this evening chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended. At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister, on his own behalf and on behalf of the ministers, congratulated the hero of victory, steadfastness, and jihad, President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, on the fifth anniversary of the day of days, the decisive victory over the Iranian aggression, the historic victory which has incited the forces of evil and rancor to conspire against Iraq's resurgence and pan-Arab project. The prime minister also noted that this week marks the first anniversary of the president leader's message to the Iraqi people and officials on 12 August 1992, in which he urged them to minimize expenditure, carry out a large-scale economization campaign, and opt for local substitutes and creative methods in management, production, services, and maintenance. The ministries and officials exerted momentous efforts in this respect and have achieved significant results.

The prime minister said that his excellency the president leader's 12 August 1992 message is still in mind. What is constantly required is the continued implementation of the plans formulated in this respect.

The Council of Ministers then discussed items listed on its agenda, including several organizational and economic issues, and made the necessary decisions and recommendations.

Russian Federation Minister Wraps Up Four-Day Visit

Expresses Interest in Cooperation

JN0608175593 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Mr. Oleg Davydov, deputy minister of the Russian Federation Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, has expressed his country's principled keenness on cooperation with Iraq on basis of the previous cooperation agreements between the two countries.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH daily for today Mr. Davydov said Russia had previously implemented projects in Iraq and still had some equipment left at those positions stressing they would have to make use of them to serve the new agreements. [passage omitted]

Signs Agreements, Departs

JN0708150693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Oleg Davydov, Russian deputy minister for foreign economic relations, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today at the end of a four-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Russian delegation held official talks and signed three agreements on joint cooperation between Iraq and Russia in the economic, trade, scientific and technical fields, as well completing the implementation of economic projects in Iraq.

The delegation met with several Iraqi officials to promote Iraqi-Russian cooperation in various areas in order to serve the joint interests of the friendly Iraqi and Russian peoples.

BABIL Criticizes Russian Stance

JN0708102593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has expressed astonishment at the Russian Foreign Ministry's attempt to distance itself from the results of last week's visit to Baghdad by a Russian delegation.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that ruling out an economic and commercial agreement between Iraq and Russia at present is something amazing and "implies fear, subordination, and an absence of independent national decisionmaking."

The paper stresses that this matter requires review and reconsideration, and that, unless Russia reviews its stands and reconsiders its decisions, the Russian leadership will one day find itself unable to make any decisions without Washington's prior approval.

BABIL wonders why cooperating with Iraq has become a charge that people are trying to acquit themselves of, and whether legitimate joint interests between peoples have become a crime that sovereign, independent states fear and hate to declare.

The paper says that the Russian Foreign Ministry's position on this issue does not serve the Russian people's interests or longstanding relations with the people of Iraq. The paper notes that the Russian leadership's recent stands against Iraq were the subject of public criticism in Russia after such stands went too far in appeasing the U.S. Administration and its allies.

While a high-level Russian delegation was visiting Baghdad and holding talks and contacts with Iraqi officials, the Russian Foreign Ministry denied that there is any possibility to conclude an economic agreement between Russia and Iraq at the present time.

Opposition Group Claims Responsibility for Baghdad Blast

NC0608182593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The opposition Committee for Defending Democracy Organization [munazzamat lajnatu al-difa' 'an al-dimuqratiyah] has claimed responsibility for the explosion of a booby-trapped car in the center of Baghdad on 4 August.

In a statement issued yesterday, the organization regretted having to resort to such a course but said that Saddam and his regime have not left the Iraqi people any other way to express their anger and wrath. It noted the violations of human rights in Iraq, the repression and torture, especially in southern Iraq, and the deportation of tens of thousands of Kurds.

The organization stressed that the explosion targeted the Iraqi regime's Housing Ministry and the regime's radio and television studios.

The Iraqi regime accused Iran of being behind the explosion.

Further on Organization's Claim

JN0608203093 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] In the continuation of operations to expose the crimes of the regime's [word indistinct] and its attacks on our Iraqi people, especially in the southern marshlands, [words indistinct] claimed full responsibility for detonating a booby-trapped car in the heart of Baghdad. In a statement issued by this opposition group, which calls itself the Committee in Defense of Democracy in Iraq [Lajnat al-Difa' 'an al-Dimuqratiyah fi al-'Iraq], said that the explosion is in response to the continuing violations of human rights in the country and the [word indistinct] displacements of tens of thousands of people in the marshlands.

Iraqi opposition sources say the blast is considered a message to the defeated tyrant's regime because it took place near the [words indistinct], the Al-Rashid Hotel, the conference palace, and several other official buildings. It [word indistinct] the cheap and hasty attempts of the 'Aflaqite regime to blame the Islamic Republic of Iran for the explosion.

Rebel Radio on Anti-Regime Leaflets, AL-NABA' Paper

JN0708183693 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] In order to deepen Islamic cultural awareness in confronting the deviating crusader onslaught by the media of the despicable 'Aflaqite regime against the sons of the Islamic nation in sacred Iraq, the mujahidin of the Islamic revolution in late July distributed a number of Islamic leaflets calling for toppling the defeated tyrant and his corrupt regime and establishing the government of divine justice on the chaste and sacred land.

An Islamic revolution mujahidin source said our mujahidin distributed these leaflets in the [name indistinct] district of al-'Amarah Governorate. They also distributed pictures of the founder of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the Martyr and Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr, God's blessings be upon him, and pictures of the [word indistinct] Islamic revolution leaders. Our leaders received the leaflets with elation, expressing their cohesion with the Islamic revolution, its leaders, and its zealous mujahidin.

It is worth mentioning that our Mujahidin earlier distributed leaflets of jihad as well as the newspaper AL-NABA' in the police post and in the 'Aflaqite police [word indistinct] and certain sensitive departments in the [name indistinct] in the Salah al-Din Governorate.

Kurdish Authorities Shut Down PKK-Affiliated Paper

NC0508194493 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 5 (AFP)—Authorities in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq have closed a newspaper linked to Kurdish separatists in Turkey, the Marxist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), the governor of Irbil said Thursday [5 August].

'Abd-al-Mun'im Barzani said the weekly newspaper WELAT was closed on Wednesday because it did not have a proper license, but Welat publisher Sirfiraz 'Ali showed AFP what he said were the necessary documents.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan objected to the decision which was backed by the other main Iraqi Kurdish movement, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), saying the move hampered efforts to build democracy in Kurdistan.

Welat is a political newspaper published in Kurdish and Arabic.

Its first issue appeared nearly three months after last November's ceasefire between the PKK and the self-declared Iraqi Kurdish government.

The two sides fought after Turkish troops launched an offensive in northern Iraq against PKK fighters hiding there. The ceasefire allowed the PKK to organize political activities and publish newspapers in northern Iraq.

But clashes have broken out recently between PKK and PDK partisans in the Turkish border region.

'Secret' Publication Urges Saddam's Overthrow

LD0608164693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0953 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Aug (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper has reported the distribution in large numbers of a secret publication called AL-NABA' in Baghdad. The publication condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and talked about the state of discontent prevailing in Iraq due to the regime in place.

Quoting a report from Iraq AL-WATAN further said that the publication, whose author is unknown, wondered "whether Iraq has gained anything from its aggressive wars under Saddam's rule." The publication also called on the Iraqi people to rise against Saddam's regime and overthrow him and his acolytes.

Daily Asserts Kuwait's 'Unquestionable' Iraqi Identity

JN0708173493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has asserted that cutting off Kuwait from Iraqi soil was part of a British plan to strangle Iraq by denying it a sea outlet.

In an analysis in today's edition, the newspaper says that at the beginning of their occupation of Iraq, the British decided to strangle the country geographically and deprive it of any sea outlet.

The paper says the hostile plan was designed to flank Iraq on the north and the south with two states with traditions of historic hostility to Iraq, i.e., Iran and Turkey. It also sought to establish hostile governments Syria, in the center, and in Saudi Arabia, in the south.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also explains the ways that were used to implement that plan. It says the London government cut off Arabistan [Khuzestan] from Iraq and annexed it to Iran to impose the latter as a partner in controlling Shatt al-'Arab, Iraq's sea outlet.

The paper says the British cut off another Iraqi outlet to the Arabian Gulf waters; i.e., the Kuwaiti region.

The paper also touches on justifications for these two aggressions, and says that while the British found justifications for cutting off Arabistan from Iraq, the usurpation of Kuwait from Iraq could not be justified.

AL-JUMHURIYAH refutes the excuses the colonialists used to cut off Kuwait. It says the British wanted to separate Kuwait from the motherland to deprive Iraq of a sea outlet, after Arabistan had been usurped from it, and to plunder Iraq's oil wealth from both regions.

The paper recalls geographical facts and legal documents proving the unquestionable Iraqi identity of that dear soil. It says the 8 August 1990 decision to return Kuwait to Iraq will remain a historic one for generations to come because it stresses a historical fact that force cannot change or cancel.

Reaction to Reported Talks Delegation Resignations

Rabin: Decision 'None of My Business'

TA0908130293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat last night presented their resignations from the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, Jerusalem sources close to the delegation told our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz, who now reports:

[Yokhpaz] Yesterday, elements belonging to the PLO's Executive Committee in Tunis tried at the last minute to prevent the resignation of the three delegation members, but the efforts were to no avail. The Executive Committee yesterday convened an urgent meeting where the three apparently announced their resignations. This afternoon, Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem's Orient House, the delegation's official residence, confirmed the resignations. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has already reacted to the reports of the resignations. I do not deal with speculation about the Palestinian delegation, Rabin said, because it is none of my business who is to be a member of the delegation. The Palestinians themselves have to decide who will represent them, as long as they are inhabitants of the territories, as decided on in the invitations to the Madrid conference.

Peres: Crisis May Benefit Peace Process

TA0908102093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gil Litman "this morning," during Peres' tour of East Jerusalem—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] Will the crisis in the Palestinian delegation harm the peace process?

[Peres] I think that just the opposite is true. After the dispute is settled, there will be a Palestinian side with a stand, with which we can negotiate. Look, I am not one of those who rejoice at this sight. I find it understandable that in such a camp, when it comes to this sensitive issue, there would be differences. I have the fullest respect for those differences of opinion. I also know precisely whose opinion we would like to see winning. We would like the moderate, the peace-seeking party to win. We will follow this closely, seriously, without cynicism, and with no malicious joy.

[Litman] It seems that in this crisis the moderate party is the one in Tunis. Will we have to talk to it?

[Peres] I would not jump to conclusions. One side is more extreme on some issues, the other on other issues. It is a process, and the question is what will the outcome be. Israel is waiting for a clear, responsible, and moderate Palestinian stand. If the current differences lead to this result, it would be very good.

[Litman] Do you believe that such a crisis brings closer the moment when Israeli cabinet ministers meet PLO members?

[Peres] All in good time. There will also be a time for this question to be asked, which is not now. At this stage, there is a delegation to negotiate with. I believe the differences became sharper because we are nearing time of decisionmaking. We are perhaps in the last quarter of the road, where each step has to be taken very carefully to avoid mistakes, unnecessary concessions, and unintentional failures. Therefore, the minds are now on the alert and the tongues are in position, because we are near the moment of decision. I believe it is quite close.

[Litman] Did you say, sir, that 75 percent of the work has been done on both the Palestinian and Syrian tracks?

[Peres] It is not a mathematical matter. I would say that most of the road has been crossed, and what is left are differences in the last segment of the road.

[Litman] On what issues?

[Peres] The issues are known: jurisdiction, territories, Jerusalem, powers. There is a very long list of important issues, though solutions are being found for one or two of them.

Beilin on Implications of Resignations

TA0808103993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Gid'on Zelinger —live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zelinger] Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and several other members of the Palestinian peace delegation are resigning. What does this signify for Israel? Does this mean direct negotiations with PLO-Tunis?

[Beilin] I have to comment on the historical irony inherent in this development. For many years we have striven to differentiate between the PLO in the territories and the PLO abroad, between the inhabitants of the territories and PLO-Tunis. Now it appears that this difference indeed exists, but that the PLO in the territories is much more extremist than the PLO abroad, and these people intend to resign because the PLO abroad is more moderate than them. I think that none of us—including me—ever dreamt that this would happen. History, however, always turns out to be more interesting than expected.

Referring to the immediate political significance, I think it is a little too early to tell. We will see what will take place in the meeting between Faysal al-Husayni and his people and the PLO people. If they indeed resign we will be left with a greatly weakened delegation and with Dr.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, who is the most extremist delegation member. I think this will require us to undergo a rethinking process regarding the entire Palestinian question. We will have to consider whether it is possible to speak about progress with them, and if the answer is affirmative, with whom?

[Zelinger] Referring to this issue, Israeli diplomats have always been fond of using the expression: If there is no choice, then...

[Beilin] What are you implying?

[Zelinger] Is it possible that you are trying to get Israeli public opinion used to the idea that very soon official Israeli Government spokesmen will negotiate on its behalf with PLO-Tunis?

[Beilin] I do not know. Theoretically I am not ruling this possibility out. You are familiar with my position. I have never ruled out this possibility. I accepted the fact that while we are negotiating in the framework of the Madrid talks it is important to preserve the Madrid formula, and I still adhere to this position. At the same time I am saying that if it eventually transpires that we do not have a negotiating partner from among the inhabitants of the territories, we will have to hold an extremely serious reassessment of this issue, including, perhaps, the breaking of taboos—which have in any event eroded.

[Zelinger] In this connection I want to ask you about the Sarid-Zucker initiative. Is this something positive, which can help the situation?

[Beilin] It is very difficult for me to refer to this initiative, because all I know about it is what has been reported in the media. I have not received any confirmation from Sarid himself about this trip. I can say, however, that the pertinent issue here is whether the meeting was held, and if yes, with whom have they met. We should no longer dwell on whether the meeting itself is justified, because the wall separating us has already been breached.

[Zelinger] Sarid and Zucker say the significant aspect of the meeting was that it was done with the knowledge of the top Israeli decisionmakers.

[Beilin] I have no confirmation of this. If this meeting took place and bore important political fruit then this is very good. Even if it did not bear fruit, however, the very fact that such a meeting took place without causing great shock waves says something about the way in which Israel has been viewing the Palestinian leadership over the last few months.

[Zelinger] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

Rubinstein Advocates Noninterference

TA0808115693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein by Gid'on Zelinger—live]

[Excerpts] [Zelinger] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, can you read out the cabinet communique?

[Rubinstein] The first part of the meeting was devoted to security and political issues. The ministers were briefed about the recent attacks in the Gaza Strip, and Judaea and Samaria in which a Civil Administration worker and three soldiers were killed. The government expressed its condolences to the bereaved families. The prime minister and foreign minister also reviewed the visit of the U.S. secretary of state and the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Zelinger] The cabinet probably had no time to discuss the controversy within the PLO.

[Rubinstein] The prime minister and foreign minister did brief the ministers about the Palestinian track, but not in connection with the latest development.

[Zelinger] If al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and 'Urayqat—with whom you are very familiar—resign from the delegation, with whom are we to talk? With whom do you think Israel should try to negotiate?

[Rubinstein] In principle, we avoid interfering in internal Palestinian issues, as long as they elect their representatives within acceptable parameters—those agreed upon before Madrid. Within these parameters we are not intervening in their internal questions, and I do not think it is our duty to do so. The Israeli Government is interested in advancing the negotiations. We are interested in the continuation of the negotiations and hope that it will be possible to bridge the Palestinian positions and ours. I do not think we should deal with their internal problems, and I think that even if one is interested in this, it is too early to enter this issue—we must see how things develop.

[Zelinger] The resignation is still not final. Perhaps you have not heard, but earlier we spoke with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, who advises Israel to take a shortcut and speak directly with PLO-Tunis.

[Rubinstein] This is a familiar issue that is under public debate in Israel. The government's policy is to stick to the Madrid rules, according to which we are to negotiate with the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories. This is the existing policy. Let me remind you that the real questions relate not to whom we are talking, but what we are talking about. What are the real issues? What are the differences of opinion? How is it possible to bridge the gaps? This is the real challenge, not these other questions which only create more differences of opinion rather than narrow the gaps. The question of the resignation of the delegation members, however, is still pending and we should see how it develops. I do not think we should deal with this at this point.

[Zelinger] You are the top Israeli negotiator on the Palestinian track. Do you think that the Sarid-Zucker meeting with PLO leaders serves the cause and facilitates the process?

[Rubinstein] As a civil servant you cannot expect me to refer to the meeting of a minister or a Knesset member. I want to reiterate that the main issue relates to the substantive problems in the negotiations, and these are the problems which were raised with the Americans when they were here last week. This is also true in reference to the Palestinians. I myself encouraged Dr. 'Abd-al- Shafi, the head of the delegation, to participate in the talks in order to facilitate them. It is regrettable to see that some Palestinian personages, such as one of 'Abd-al-Shafi's deputies, believe that it is a strategic Palestinian interest to foil the interim arrangements. We must adhere to our objective. I would not like to discuss this or that meeting beyond these remarks.

[Zelinger] Mr. Rubinstein, we had a difficult weekend in the territories. Should we demand of the Palestinians to curb terrorist activity in the territories?

[Rubinstein] During the peace talks we have constantly asked the Palestinians to lead the way on nonviolence and to call for peaceful negotiations. I am not convinced that our call was answered properly. We are still demanding this. This has nothing to do with the Israeli Government's duty to fight terrorism. It is doing precisely that, while striving to facilitate the negotiations. Let me recall that the negotiations include many issues which can serve the interests of all sides—such as early empowerment. This issue received little public notice recently, but it was intensively dealt with in our contacts with the Americans. I hope that our partners in the negotiations will come to their senses. However, all this is one thing, and the fight against terrorism is another—and we will pursue this fight.

[Zelinger] Thank you very much, Mr. Rubinstein.

Ministers Call Resignations Regrettable

TA0908050393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Israeli government leaders have been commenting about the crisis in the Palestinian delegation. Questioned by reporters after yesterday's cabinet meeting, ministers gave mixed reactions. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] All the ministers said if it is true that al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and 'Urayqat have decided to resign—this is to be regretted. Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said it could create, what he called, one hell of a problem; a big crisis. We asked him if Israel should negotiate directly with the PLO, should the Palestinian negotiating team collapse:

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Well, I do not think that we have to run that fast.

[Katzenell] Health Minister Hayim Ramon, a noted dove among Labor party ministers, said: If the Palestinian delegation collapses, or if the local Palestinians have suddenly become more extreme than Yasir 'Arafat, then Israel will have to rethink its position and policy.

[Ramon] At least till the last week, the situation was that the PLO in Tunis was the extreme one, the one that did not allow the Palestinians in the occupied territories to be more flexible. If the information that you are giving me is right, something changed. If the PLO in Tunis is now more moderate than the Palestinians in the occupied territories, this is a new development and we will have to consider the consequence of this development.

[Katzenell] What Ramon meant was that Israel will have to decide whether to have direct talks with the PLO or not.

Of course, the four Meretz ministers have maintained all along that Israel should negotiate directly with the PLO. As we heard from Environment Minister Yosi Sarid:

[Sarid] First of all, I hope they are not going to resign. I heard that they are going to Tunisia. I hope that the difficulties of the Palestinians will be resolved by themselves. But we come again to the same conclusion to talk to the senders and not to the representative of the occupied territories, with all due respect. [end recording]

Parties Comment on PLO-Delegation Crisis

TA0808085793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian peace delegation, is also departing for Tunis. This morning Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat departed for Tunis with the intention of resigning from the Palestinian delegation.

We have reactions to the rift between the PLO leadership and the members of the Palestinian delegation: the Likud faction says this development is a blow to all of those who support the political legitimization of the PLO. The prime minister—who after the elections promised that an agreement will be signed with the Palestinians within nine months—has caused the Arab position to become even more extreme. The Likud faction claims that the prime minister is responsible for the current stalemate. The government must retract the policy of gestures and courting terrorist leaders and devote its efforts to eradicating terrorism. The Likud statement was presented by Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi.

Moledet Chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi says that despite Rabin's gestures toward the Palestinians, the latter are evincing dissatisfaction and extremist positions. Ze'evi calls on Rabin to refrain from additional gestures aimed at rehabilitating the Arab's standing.

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who is close to the PLO leadership in Tunis, blames the Israeli Government for weakening the standing of the Palestinian delegation among the Palestinian public in the territories by not presenting moderate positions to the Palestinians. Al-Tibi claims that the PLO leadership in Tunis is signaling to the Israeli Government that it is the address for the negotiations with Israel.

Commentary Analyzes PLO, Delegation Differences

TA0908133693 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Aug 93 pp 1, 6

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "The Disputes Have Surfaced"]

[Text] The dramatic developments in the Palestinian arena have underscored the inaccuracy of the view that the Palestinian delegation is subservient to the PLO in all matters. In fact, there has been constant tension on many issues between the delegation and the PLO; it has now merely surfaced for all to see. It appears that a Palestinian political center with wide-ranging independence from the PLO has developed in East Jerusalem. In other words, it forms an alternative leadership. On the eve of the latest crisis, 'Ashrawi demanded to be coopted to the PLO's decision-making process and not merely to take orders. The threatened resignation is therefore part of the power struggle between the territories and the PLO, which has surfaced openly for the first time.

That does not mean that the delegation has taken root among the Palestinians. On the contrary: the consistent Israeli policy of preventing the delegation from achieving anything, the stinginess in making gestures, and the "big stick" used by Rabin, have made the Palestinians tired of the peace process and have harmed the delegation. That policy has aided the PLO in preventing the delegation from really taking off.

On the face of it, the Palestinian delegation presented a harder line than the PLO, but that was tactical and not strategic. The members of the delegation have known for some time that the PLO intends to push them into the sidelines or fire them. They feared that the moderation the PLO has shown in its recent contacts is aimed at exposing them to the Islamic Jihad's armed bands now roaming the territories. On Saturday, an Islamic Jihad-Palestine leaflet was disseminated, and at the top was a threat to "whoever caves in to the enemy's terms." The leaflet claimed responsibility for the attack on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in al-Duhayshah on Saturday. The Palestinian delegation cannot, under such conditions, present a document containing concessions.

A dispute between the delegation and the PLO over the role played by the PLO center in Cairo in the process was sharpened recently. In a personal conversation between U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and al-Husayni at Jerusalem's King David Hotel, the secretary asked al-Husayni: What are your preferences? Al-Husayni responded: early empowerment. The PLO office in Cairo rejects early empowerment and wants to advance Gaza (and Jericho) First in order to dispatch Nabil Sha'th to Gaza. All factions in the delegation—the al-Husayni branch and the 'Abd-al-Shafi branch, oppose that. Those in Israel who support Gaza First, such as Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, do not regret the latest developments, while those who prefer early empowerment, such as Rabin, do regret it.

Al-Husayni is prepared to implement the interim stage, and agree to a halt to the intifadah already at that stage. The PLO is willing to stop the intifadah only after the implementation of the permanent stage is completed.

All sections of the delegation—al-Husayni, 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Ghassan al-Khatib—expressed displeasure with Israel's contacts with the PLO, which contributed to their decision to resign.

Sarid Trying To Convince Rabin To Upgrade Talks

TA0608131593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Aug 93 p A1

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Minister Yosi Sarid is trying to convince Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to agree to raise the level of the meetings between Israel and PLO-Tunis. Sarid is trying to initiate a meeting between a senior Labor minister and a senior PLO official, probably Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

In his meeting with Nabil Sha'th in Cairo about 10 days ago, Sha'th also expressed the wish for such a meeting. Sha'th noted that he very much appreciates Sarid's willingness to meet with him, but the Meretz position is well known, therefore only a meeting between a senior Labor minister and a senior PLO official would be considered a breakthrough.

Rabin has reservations about such a meeting and prefers at this stage noncommittal contacts, or feelers, as he called them, be held through lower level mediators.

Although Rabin had prior knowledge of the meeting, his aides yesterday took the trouble to say that he sees it as "an unimportant event," and made it clear that the prime minister has no intention of encouraging a dialogue with the PLO. The prime minister's bureau also denied the various reports about indirect negotiations on his behalf with the PLO.

A senior political source said the prime minister did not update Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Sarid's departure for Cairo for the meeting with Sha'th, and Sarid himself did not inform Peres. Minister Peres said yesterday in reaction to the Sarid-Sha'th meeting that it does not reflect a new government policy. Peres said that as long as the PLO is a terrorist organization and supports terror, no contacts should be made with it, but if the PLO were a political body or party it would be easier for Israel to hold a dialogue with it. [passage omitted]

Says Peace Process Advancing

TA0608173793 Tel Aviv TEL AVIV in Hebrew 6 Aug 93 pp 48-50

[Interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by Shmu'el Shem-Tov, "last week"; place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shem-Tov] The government of which you are a member has not advanced peace by even an inch.

[Sarid] You bet it has; not just by inches—by kilometers.

[Shem-Tov] Is there anything we do not know?

[Sarid] There are things you do not know, but even what you know is measured by kilometers, and perhaps what you do not know can be measured by more. Peace takes time, and people tend to take for granted things that have been done. Using a light and harmful language, they say we have done nothing. It is nonsense. One good example would be the fact that the composition of the Palestinian delegation has changed completely.

[Shem-Tov] Did that change anything?

[Sarid] I think so. Here is another example: The Likud talked of only the interim arrangement, and could not discuss the final arrangement. We talk of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The previous government filled the country with settlements which today are the main obstacle to peace, and we said this 20 years ago. Four more years of that settling government would have made peace impossible. This government stopped the settlements. No population is moving to the West Bank today.

[Shem-Tov] So the government adopted the Meretz positions, but the peace process is still stuck.

[Sarid] There would have been no progress without it.

[Shem-Tov] Is there any progress with it?

[Sarid] Obviously, peace has not been achieved yet, but we have the necessary and sufficient conditions for this. The way the public is being prepared for peace is unprecedented. Take for example the Syrian issue. Rabin says the scope of withdrawal will equal the scope of peace. At the same time, he says we want full peace. What is the conclusion? You figure it out yourself. This is preparing the people and the background.

[Shem-Tov] So he keeps saying, but nothing moves.

[Sarid] True. No peace was made with Syria because al-Asad has been uncooperative, acting strangely, and making no progress toward us. The conditions already exist. Al-Asad and Rabin have already made the strategic decisions. The question now is who will say what first. It is a technical matter. We are just one step away from peace and on the verge of making the final step. You have to be blind not to see this.

[Shem-Tov] Rabin is willing to withdraw; you let Faysal al-Husayni join the talks; settlements have been stopped—yet we do not see any progress. Perhaps you made unnecessary concessions?

[Sarid] We made no concessions. True, the Arabs are not being fair and have not covered enough ground in our direction. Still, we made no concessions. We simply translated our world views into policies. It must work.

[Shem-Tov] When?

[Sarid] As I said before, we will not have to wait until this government ends its term. This is the most difficult decision in the 100-year history of Zionism, and it takes time. This decision will tear through the nation. There is also the danger of armed resistance.

[Shem-Tov] So now you are happy that you have done all you could to bring peace?

[Sarid] We did not do everything. More can be done. We believe that we should start talking to the PLO tomorrow, not through emissaries. This issue is being seriously discussed in the cabinet sessions. Is this in itself not a giant change from the previous governments?

[Shem-Tov] Why did you not break the Madrid format, which is freezing the process?

[Sarid] There is no Madrid format. The whole issue is not serious. Anything can be done under the Madrid format. It does not prevent us from doing anything.

[Shem-Tov] And are you doing things? Are you opening additional channels of communication?

[Sarid] Yes, I believe we do.

[Shem-Tov] Are you very pleased?

[Sarid] I say: Our feet are standing at the doorstep of peace. This is not a promise, because the last step is the most difficult. History is full of examples of things that failed at the last moment. We are just before taking the last step to wrap things up.

[Shem-Tov] Do you want Meretz to be there when this step is taken?

[Sarid] If it is not there, I will jump off the Shalom Tower.

UN Envoy Comments on Peace Process

TA0708101693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Gad Ya'aqobi, ambassador to the United Nations, by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Talmor] Gad Ya'aqobi, our ambassador to the United Nations, has arrived safe and sound from New York to our studio. Good day, Mr. Ya'aqobi.

[Ya'aqobi] Hello and good morning.

[Talmor] Are the threats to your life in New York serious?

[Ya'aqobi] The U.S. authorities took the threats seriously and assigned a large number of bodyguards to watch my back. This was quite a burden, mainly to them of course, and I hope it is over now.

[Talmor] Who threatened your life there?

[Ya'aqobi] The Americans said it was the same elements who blew up the World Trade Center and who recently planned to blow up the United Nations building and assassinate prominent U.S. figures.

[Talmor] So, I understand that the danger is over for the time being, and you seem quite calm. Will you be so heavily guarded by policemen and security personnel again when you return to New York?

[Ya'aqobi] I hope not. I hope things will go back to normal, with Israeli security reassuming the sole responsibility for my safety, just as they guard other Israeli representatives.

[Talmor] You are Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Ya'aqobi. Do you nevertheless have some connection to the recent developments in the peace process, to Secretary of State Christopher's talks in Israel and in Damascus, or to the certain good news alluded to by Prime Minister Rabin?

[Ya'aqobi] I do have some connection because these developments also affect the international arena in which I represent Israel. Progress toward peace will undoubtedly encourage the positive developments that have already taken place in the course of the past year after the peace talks adopted a more businesslike approach. As for myself, I believe that these talks will lead to solutions. I do not see any of the parties having any other alternative. However, this primarily depends on the deep involvement of the United States and its determination to achieve this goal.

[Talmor] In other words, do you view Christopher's visit a prelude to additional trips and impending positive developments?

[Ya'aqobi] I hope so. I am convinced that if additional visits do not take place, and if the process is not handled in a more vigorous, intensive, and high-pressured fashion, with a much greater sense of urgency, then the chances of reaching agreement will be slim. I believe today that all the parties realize that this is the most preferable alternative.

[Talmor] Was there serious concern that the peace process might hit a dead end, or even grind to a practical halt, unless Christopher came to the region?

[Ya'aqobi] Most definitely yes.

[Talmor] So what do you expect to eventually happen in the next few months in light of the secretary of state's intensive involvement now? Is there a possibility that we will finally see some peace agreements in the coming months?

[Ya'aqobi] I believe that there is a real chance of reaching peace agreements. I am convinced that today the Palestinians are in a terrible situation in which they have to face serious threats from the extremist organizations, including threats to the very lives of the Palestinian delegates. This is holding things up to a great degree. The negotiations with the Palestinians are ultimately very close, or could be very close, to an agreement, and I believe that there is also still a chance for a breakthrough with Syria. Once, we have an agreement with the Palestinians and Syria, then agreements with Jordan and Lebanon will rapidly follow.

[Talmor] Ambassador Ya'aqobi, you probably run into the Palestinian representatives while wandering the corridors of the United Nations building.

[Ya'aqobi] I see them and they see me. Sometimes, we may greet each other; however, I am forbidden to speak with the PLO representative, or rather observer, to the United Nations.

[Talmor] So there is absolutely nothing except for an occasional hello or how are you?

[Ya'aqobi] Not even that.

[Talmor] But if an Israeli cabinet minister travels to Cairo to meet with a senior PLO official, why should our UN ambassador not exchange a few words with their representative?

[Ya'aqobi] That is something you have to ask the cabinet and the minister, not me.

[Talmor] Did you attempt to propose something of the sort?

[Ya'aqobi] My private conversations with the prime minister and with the foreign minister are a matter for private forums.

[Talmor] So you are saying that this is a private matter?

[Ya'aqobi] That is correct.

[Talmor] What is your personal opinion on the matter? Should Israel talk to the PLO?

[Ya'aqobi] At the moment, I am not a politician.

[Talmor] But you were one in the past?

[Ya'aqobi] True, for many years. However, now I represent the State of Israel and must follow the government's line.

[Talmor] Do you believe that following the recent developments, we will soon be directly negotiating with the PLO leadership in Tunis?

[Ya'aqobi] I do not think that this issue is on the immediate agenda. I think that today we are basically holding indirect negotiations with the PLO through a delegation which identifies itself with the PLO, and to the best of my knowledge, also receives a great deal of its instructions from the PLO leadership.

[Talmor] Your statements imply that eventually Israel will negotiate with the PLO's leadership in Tunis itself.

[Ya'aqobi] I did not say that. [passage omitted]

Secret Contacts With PLO Said Initiated in 1985

TA0808114393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Aug 93 p A5

[Report by Yosi Melman]

[Text] HA'ARETZ has learned from authoritative sources that the Israeli Government began secret contacts with the PLO in 1985. The decision to hold such contacts was made by Shim'on Peres, who was prime minister at the time, with the knowledge of Yitzhaq Shamir, who was then the foreign minister and acting prime minister, and of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Yosef Ginosar, a senior Shin Bet official at the time, and Shlomo Gazit, the former head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, were entrusted with holding the actual contacts. The PLO's representatives to the talks were Sa'id Kamal, who represents the organization in Egypt, and Hani al-Hasan, who was a close associate of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the time. Hani al-Hasan and his brother, Khalid, were among the founders of the PLO.

The meetings were prepared by Canadian Professor Steve Cohen, who was close to the PLO leadership at the time and encouraged in his efforts by Shim'on Peres. Prof. Cohen participated in all the meetings, which were held in Paris and other European capitals, along with Ginosar and Gazit.

The meetings were held mainly in English, with Ginosar and al-Hasan occasionally also conversing in Arabic. Each meeting lasted several hours, during which time both parties exchanged opinions and ideas on a variety of issues related to the promotion of the peace process.

After each meeting, the Israeli team of Ginosar and Gazit prepared a report which was submitted for the perusal of Peres, Shamir, and Rabin. These three men were considered to be the most senior ministers in the national unity government, and the trio was dubbed "the prime ministers forum."

The purpose of the meetings between the representatives of the Israeli Government and the PLO officials was to clarify the fate of the Israeli MIA's (the three soldiers missing since the June 1982 battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub during the Lebanon War), and especially to learn about the PLO's position regarding the chances of the peace process.

The PLO representative promised that his organization would do its best to help Israel locate the missing soldiers, but the meetings focused mainly on political issues. At that period, there was talk of a possibility of the Palestinians and Jordan forming a joint delegation for peace talks with Israel.

The secret meetings between the representatives of the national unity government and the PLO continued for over one year and were considered one of the biggest political secrets in the country. Only a handful of select people, in addition to the "prime ministers forum" were in the know.

The contacts were eventually stopped for three reasons: One, the gap between the positions of the two parties was not narrowed. Two, in mid-1986 the Israeli media exposed the bus No. 300 affair [in which two Palestinians who had hijacked a bus in April 1984 were killed by the security forces after being captured alive], and Ginosar, acting on the orders of Shin Bet head Avraham Shalom, began working with the inquiry commissions established to investigate the matter. Three, the implementation of the Labor-Likud rotation agreement and Shamir's assumption of the premiership.

In response to HA'ARETZ's questions over the weekend, some of the people involved in the secret contacts with the PLO did not deny that they had taken place. Peres said: "I refuse to comment on the matter. I do not deal with history."

Shamir replied the following way: "I remember being told about something to do with Shlomo Gazit. I told them I do want it to continue any more, and the matter was stopped."

Ginosar said: "I do not intend to comment on any developments or activities that took place during my service in the Shin Bet."

It was impossible to receive any comment from Shlomo Gazit, who is on holiday. Rabin's spokesman did not respond to HA'ARETZ's query.

Rabinovich Denies al-Asad-Rabin Meeting Report

TA0608161493 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and chief negotiator with Syria, by Yisra'el Segal on the weekly "Supplement of Supplements" interviews program—live]

[Excerpts] [Segal] Good evening, sir.

[Rabinovich] Good evening.

[Segal] We know now that the CNN scoop was inaccurate: There is not going to be a Rabin-al-Asad meeting. It is not expected to take place in the near future. True?

[Rabinovich] It was not necessarily expected. In any event, it is not in the works. I have discussed the issue with members of the entourage from which this story seems to have sprung, and they claim to have told a CNN reporter that such a meeting was not inconceivable, that it could happen within a time range of 10 or 12 months. There is a big difference between this and the report as it was published.

[Segal] I understand. In any event, the U.S. secretary of state has been shuttling along the Jerusalem-Damascus axis in a way reminiscent of the Kissinger days and suggesting urgency, an initiative. I understand that we mainly insisted on receiving a Syrian explanation of their understanding of the terms agreement, treaty, the substance of peace. Do we know more now? Will we now be able to travel to Damascus?

[Rabinovich] We are not traveling anywhere as yet. We know more about the nature of peace as perceived by the Syrians, but while this is the main issue, it is not the only one. It is vital that we avoid hanging on to the simplistic formula saying that the scope of peace will match the scope of withdrawal. In our direct talks with the Syrians in Washington and in our numerous talks with the Americans, we spelled out a basketful of issues and questions that interest us: The substance of peace, the substance of security arrangements, the linkage between the arrangements with Syria and an overall arrangement.

[Segal] What more do we know about their idea of the substance of peace?

[Rabinovich] We are not acquainted with the details as yet. The most important revelation of this week is the fact that the secretary of state had a long conversation with al-Asad in which he asked many questions which I think were pointed, and he came to Jerusalem from Damascus with the feeling, the impression, or perhaps the conclusion that al-Asad does indeed intend to sign a genuine peace treaty with us at the end of the process.

[Segal] You know, I have had some experience as a political correspondent, and yet I do not understand why there is so much fear about revealing actual facts to us. Do they think information will leak out and the enemy—Syria—will learn about it? But Syria itself made these proposals.

[Rabinovich] This has nothing to do with secrecy. The nature of such processes is that they do not end in one day, and when a message is relayed or an impression formed, there is no point in making it public, debating it, and speculating about it as long as it is still an impression and not fact. That is why we have to be doubly cautious. [passage omitted]

[Segal] We have received some pointed answers then.

[Rabinovich] We have received a clear answer to one very general question: When Syria says that the goal of its negotiations with us is peace, is it referring to a peace treaty or to what we describe as a cellophane-wrapped state of nonbelligerency they call a peace treaty? We have received a clear answer to this broad question. There remain many other important questions about the nature of the arrangements, what peace entails, what security arrangements entail. I would not want to underestimate the importance of these questions, which still need to be debated and agreed on. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Progress in Talks With Syria

TA0808154893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Aug 93 p B1

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "From Washington to Shuttle Diplomacy"]

[Text] The shuttle diplomacy the Americans will be conducting in the coming months will be in addition to, and not instead of, the direct negotiations being held according to the "Madrid format." That, at least, is what the sides are claiming in the wake of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip last week. Anyway, there can be no doubt that the American arena for decisionmaking in the political negotiations has now been moved from Washington to the air space of the region.

"Good news," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said on hearing the message from Damascus that President Hafiz al-Asad wants peace, is ready to act quickly to achieve it, and most important of all, will be pleased if the Americans mediate between Israel and Syria to speed up the process. Good news, Rabin said, and welcomed the digressions from the Madrid format and the creation of an alternative to the direct negotiations.

Throughout its existence, Israel has always aspired to a direct dialogue with its enemies. Only sitting together around one table, we said, will symbolize real reconciliation and a halt to the Arabs' hostility toward Israel. After 21 months of deliberations since the breakthrough at Madrid, Israel is forced to admit that an agreement will not be achieved only through direct negotiations. For that an intermediary is needed.

Al-Asad is, in fact, the one who initiated the move that led to an agreement on the start of Christopher's shuttle diplomacy. In the Damascus meeting last month with the State Department's Dennis Ross, al-Asad suggested that the secretary himself come to the region to investigate the situation. In doing that, al-Asad expressed publicly Rabin's hidden thoughts. When the prime minister was asked for his view, he responded enthusiastically.

In agreeing to American mediation, Rabin and al-Asad accept the interlocutors they preferred from the start. Al-Asad's main aim is to draw closer to the United States. Rabin has said more than once that the most important thing for Israel is to maintain the close ties based on trust formed with the Americans. Rabin and al-Asad want the Americans and also long for high-level mediation, a political source in Jerusalem said. The wishes of both have now come true.

Operation Accountability has shown how fragile the current quiet in the region can be. The "understandings" reached in the wake of the operation gave all the sides clear-cut proof of the possible efficiency of American mediation. We can imagine the nightmare had we tried to resolve the katyusha shelling problem through direct negotiations. Each side would have made provocative speeches about how evil the other side was. Lebanon would have demanded a halt to the Israeli shelling, and Jerusalem would have responded that Hizballah must first cease its attacks. In the meantime, south Lebanon would have become a region in total ruins.

In the wake of the political upheaval in Israel, the hopes for a speedy breakthrough in the negotiations with Syria increased. Itamar Rabinovich's appointment as head of the Israeli delegation for talks with Syria, and the Israeli agreement to use the word "withdrawal," brought to life a track known for its animosity.

But even Ambassador Rabinovich's charm cannot keep the talks going for more than a year. In the final analysis, decisions have to be made not in Washington, but in Jerusalem and Damascus.

Jerusalem admitted this week that it is very hard to negotiate at the level of officials when the decision-makers have still not made the necessary decisions. The negotiations with Syria have been conducted in reverse order for about a year; the officials are sent to fill in the small print before the leaders have agreed on the headlines. Without clear decisions, Rabinovich and his colleague, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, have been forced to talk themselves to death.

The direct negotiating process being conducted for some two years between Israel and Syria has made the leaders of both sides aware of the truth about each other. Rabin's close aides admit that it is clear to him that there is no choice but a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel's determined stand has already made it clear to al-Asad that there will not be a withdrawal without a commitment by the Syrian leader to full peace, with all that it entails. But despite that awareness, no decision has yet been made. Rabin's position on a withdrawal from the Golan is not known to his ministers, not even those close to him, and there are those who say not even to himself. The Americans, who see a lot of similarities between Rabin and al-Asad, are unconvinced that the Syrian president has already worked out a final decision on the essence of the peace with Israel.

As long as the mutual inquiry was limited to the discussions between Rabinovich and al-'Allaf in Washington, the leaders of both states could hold up the moment when difficult decisions would have to be made to whenever they chose. This week, both handed over to Christopher the start of the process of transmitting information between Jerusalem and Damascus. By doing that, they entered a track which ends with "painful decisions" on peace, as Rabin said several hours after he met Christopher. The answers they refused to provide each other, they will soon have to hand over to the intermediary.

'Terrorists' Kill IDF Soldiers at Outpost

TA0608142993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed by terrorist gunfire near an IDF outpost in the vicinity of the Tulkarm District village of Dayr Ballut this morning. Their families have been notified. One of the terrorists was shot dead; another was wounded and captured, and the third terrorist escaped.

Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Ilan Lazarovich report that the incident took place at 1030 this morning as a private Peugeot 504 bearing a blue license plate [of Arab residents of the territories] stopped near an IDF roadblock outside the outpost. Two terrorists emerged from the car and opened fire at two soldiers standing near the roadblock. The two soldiers sustained critical injuries and later died of their wounds: one a short time later and the other at Tel Hashomer Hospital. A third soldier, who was manning the outpost's observation post, opened fire at the terrorists, killing one and slightly wounding another. The wounded terrorist was evacuated to a hospital. The third terrorist escaped in his car.

IDF troops closed off the area, clamped a curfew on the nearby villages, and launched extensive searches. The site was visited by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, Central Command Commander Nehemya Tamari, and Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz, the commander of IDF troops in Judaea and Samaria. They debriefed the troops on the incident.

Reacting to the incident, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said that the government has a duty to halt the deterioration in the state of personal security in Israel, which has taken place over the past year. He asserted that the government should discard its erroneous idea about the need to make unilateral concessions to the Palestinians and to court the PLO, and take firm action against Palestinian terrorism instead.

Hamas Claims Responsibility for Murders

TA0808165993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] 'Izz al-Din al-Qassim, the military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], tonight took responsibility for the kidnapping and murder of the soldier Yaron Hen and the murders of soldiers Lev Pisahov and Tomer David. A leaflet disseminated in the territories said the organization captured Hen in order to exchange him for Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the Hamas leader imprisoned in Israel. Our correspondents Arye Gus and Moti Amir report that appended to the leaflet was a picture of Yaron Hen's ID and details about his Galil personal weapon. The leaflet said that the terrorists' plans were upset by the struggle put up by the soldier and the hunt for them. It detailed the manner in which Hen was murdered. His face was sprayed with tear gas, and then he was shot in the head.

General: No Link Between Murder, Lebanon Action

TA0608192093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Major General Nehemya Tamari, commander of the Central Command, by Dan Scemama—live]

[Excerpt] [Scemama] Good evening, General Tamari. Are we witnessing a spate of painful, daring terrorist attacks?

[Tamari] Good evening. I do not want to speak of a spate. This is a harsh reality in which murderous terrorist attacks are perpetrated. We have to deal with them every day and every hour, and we are ready to do so at any given moment as part of our incessant confrontation with terrorism in Judaea and Samaria. These two attacks were daring mainly because of their timing.

[Scemama] They openly attacked an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] outpost and kidnapped an armed soldier.

[Tamari] We anticipated and we still anticipate attacks of this kind, and we are organized in a way that enables us to provide a good response. In this morning's incident, despite all the pain—I extend my condolences to the bereaved families....[pauses] It is, after all, the duty of the IDF soldiers and the IDF to prevent the killing of Israeli civilians. We must acknowledge, despite the pain we feel, that after all it was the reaction of the third soldier manning the observation point that stopped two of the terrorists; I hope we will find the third terrorist sooner or later.

[Scemama] Do you think there is a connection between these two attacks and Operation Accountability in Lebanon? After all, they promised revenge. The attacks may also be linked to the peace process.

[Tamari] I believe there is no connection between Operation Accountability and the terrorist attacks yesterday and this morning. We should keep in mind that the only connection is the fact that the extreme religious terrorist organizations—the Shiite Hizballah organization in Lebanon, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Islamic Jihad—all have a clearly defined and well-known goal: to prevent us from living here quietly. This requires tenacious and uncompromising fighting on our part.

As for the political process, those who want to harm the process and its chances are naturally doing their best to carry out their attacks at a time when everyone is preoccupied by and taking interest in the process. We must remember, however—and I have been aware of that for a long time—that attacks happen all the time, and we must try to find the best answers to them.

[Scemama] Have you drawn any operational conclusions from these attacks?

[Tamari] We constantly reexamine our operational methods both with regard to anticipated attacks and those that have taken place, and we change them as warranted. In the wake of these two incidents, we will naturally take several actions—which I will not detail here—in order to give the troops better tools for their tasks. [passage omitted]

Meretz, Opposition Parties React to Recent Attacks

TA0608165693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Here are several political reactions to the recent terrorist incidents. Meretz condemns the murders perpetrated in the territories yesterday and today, which indicate, according to Meretz, that a new spate of terror is liable to break out. Meretz believes the security forces will capture the murderers, whose only purpose is to harm Jews and Arabs, thereby killing the peace process.

Likud Knesset Member No'omi Blumenthal has appealed to Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav demanding that he take action to arrange a special recess Knesset session as soon as next week. She said that the Knesset cannot take a vacation while IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers are kidnapped and murdered in broad daylight.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said the terrorists who murdered the IDF soldiers reflect the Arabs' idea of the meaning of true peace. The prime minister's inexplicable policy and his faltering terror-eliminating steps, said Eytan, reinforce the opinion that Rabin is under the spell of Meretz.

Yitzhaq Levi, National Religious Party secretary general, reacted to the terrorist attacks saying that political fawning denotes weakness, and weakness invites disaster. The security escalation is a red light for the government which is so obsessed with compromising, Levi said.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 6 August adds: "Moledet Chairman Rehav'am Ze'evi called on Mr. Rabin to stop the talks at once with the Palestinian delegation in the wake of the two murderous attacks."]

Deputy Minister Gur Expects Wave of Terrorist Attacks

TA0708072493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur expects a wave of terrorist attacks against soldiers and civilians. This, among other reasons, is due to progress in the peace process. Gur asserted that this development requires new thinking by the defense establishment, although certain steps have already been adopted.

Deputy Defense Minister Gur rejected right-wing allegations that the government was failing to provide individual security to Israeli citizens. Gur was speaking to our correspondent David Essing.

Lubrani on Operation Accountability

TA0608150293 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Aug 93 pp 17, 20

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by On Levi; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Levi] Do you believe that following the operation, the Lebanese villagers in the south will now eject the Hizballah activists from their midst?

[Lubrani] This is being put to the test now. The Hizballah men are attempting to return to the south, and in quite a few villages, the residents are trying to force them back north.

[Levi] Would Hizballah cease its activity if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pulled out of Lebanon?

[Lubrani] In my opinion, the answer to that is a categorical no. That is not the way to remove the goal Iran has set itself—to derail the peace process. Iran would consider an Israeli withdrawal from the security zone a big victory and Tehran would then order Hizballah to launch stage two and remove Israel from the map. Nasrallah [Hizballah secretary general] makes no secret about this and declares it publicly all the time. I suggest we take his remarks seriously, because he expresses Iran's goals. He is merely a loyal instrument of Iranian policy.

[Levi] Did you try to contact Hizballah, as you did in the past with Junblatt [Druze leader]?

[Lubrani] No. And even if I had such contact, I would not tell you.

[Levi] Is there any point in trying to contact that organization?

[Lubrani] I generally believe one should talk with any party that is willing to, even if it is the devil himself, as long as these talks have a purpose, such as lowering tension or promoting our interests.

[Levi] Did we end the operation too quickly?

[Lubrani] I do not think so. To the best of my understanding, we were approaching a stage of "overkill" [preceding word in English] and that is not good either. I think the operation achieved its objectives. As things appear now, the results are good, and we will see how things develop. I also feel that today the Americans understand the goals of the operation, its achievements, and its potential to promote the peace process on what appeared to be the most encumbered track.

[Levi] How did the agreement affect the security zone and the SLA [South Lebanese Army]?

[Lubrani] I cannot say that everyone is happy with the agreement because it created a sharp distinction between what happens in the northern Galilee and the security zone. However, I think that the residents of south Lebanon believe this is a stage that must be passed and that now we have to try to include the security zone in any arrangements.

[Levi] What will be the ramifications of the Lebanese Army's deployment south of al-Litani River?

[Lubrani] It is hard to say. I do not want to raise unrealistic expectations. One must take into account that there is generally a large gap between the Lebanese propaganda and what they actually do. We never objected to the Lebanese Army deploying south of al-Litani, but we suggested that this army refrain from deploying in the locations where Hizballah was stationed, because that would place the Lebanese Army in danger if the IDF acted against Hizballah.

[Levi] What will happen if tomorrow there is a terrorist attack inside the security zone?

[Lubrani] The defense minister made it perfectly clear—we will react as we have until now, at a scope determined by our military needs.

[Levi] Does the agreement that we achieved indicate that we can reach additional agreements with Lebanon?

[Lubrani] I think that the chances today are better than in the past.

[Levi] What will you tell your Lebanese colleagues at the next round of talks?

[Lubrani] We will undoubtedly reiterate the need to deal with security issues, which actually constitute the crux of our differences with Lebanon. We have no territorial claims, we merely demand security arrangements. We proposed four alternative ways to resolve the security problems between Israel and Lebanon, and we would like to hear the Lebanese tell us how they can supply us with these assurances.

No 'Breakthrough' Seen in Christopher Tour

JN0708084793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Aug 93 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "What Breakthrough?"]

[Text] At the end of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, U.S. sources eagerly said that this tour achieved positive results in making a breakthrough in the Arab-Israeli peace talks. These sources also said that such a breakthrough would lead to tangible steps on the path of peace before the end of this year.

Such a breakthrough, if actually achieved, remains within the framework of the U.S. shuttle diplomacy. The details of this breakthrough, however, will not lead to the desired end of the problems facing the peace negotiations if there is no response to the requirements of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

Noting that Christopher's tour focused on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks in the peace talks, the most important thing to say is that problems on one track cannot be solved at the expense of other tracks. The Palestine question, which is being discussed on the Palestinian track, remains the core of any solution. If there is no just solution to this question, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and on recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, the entire peace process will continue to face the same impasse and will not meet with the desired success.

Any efforts made, whether in the peace talks or through the U.S. partner, should lead to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil as part of a comprehensive solution. This is the basic goal of the peace negotiations.

We have not, however, seen any Israeli indications that they intend to withdraw from the occupied territories or recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. These matters must be part of any solution through the transitional phase of self- rule. All Israel really wants are compromises that empty withdrawal, self-rule, and Jerusalem of their real meanings.

Any breakthrough, if not linked to the basic principles of peace—which all Arab parties unanimously agree on and which the peoples of the region believe in—will not be a real breakthrough. Instead, it will be a continued waste of time, a drain on potentials, and an intensification of regional instability. The recent events in Lebanon are a manifestation of this instability.

U.S. Said Concerned at Impact of al-'Aqaba Searches

JN0708113093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 93 pp 1, 10

[By Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The United States has promised to look into Jordan's demands for offsetting the negative impact that the interdiction of al-'Aqabah-bound shipping by U.S.-led international forces enforcing the sanctions against Iraq is having on the country; and Jordanian officials are hoping for a "positive result" that observers see as a direct outcome of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the U.S. in June.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, after talks with King Husayn and other officials Thursday, said the U.S. is concerned that the sanctions operate in a fair way towards Jordan and that the Clinton administration will be looking into that quite urgently.

The impact of the sanctions against Iraq on Jordan was among the major issues that were raised during Mr. Christopher's one-day visit to Jordan where he held talks with King Husayn, Prime Minister 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali and other officials on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations.

"I thanked His Majesty for the effective enforcement of (the sanctions) but also expressed concern that they operate in a fair and even way towards Jordan and indicated that we will be looking into that quite urgently," Mr. Christopher told a press conference after an hour-long meeting with King Husayn.

In a letter to the U.S. Congress in July, Mr. Christopher said Jordanian officials had given him assurances that the country was implementing the sanctions against Iraq and the U.S. "was taking these assurances seriously."

The secretary of state Friday ended a five-day Middle East shuttle saying he has put the Arab-Israeli negotiations back on track.

King Husayn and Mr. Christopher's visit provided an opportunity to discuss problems and concerns in regards "to achieving our objectives for conditions which we seek for all in the region in the context of a just and durable peace."

Jordanian officials said Friday their meetings with Mr. Christopher mainly served as a forum "to exchange views" on the peace process and means of getting it back on track.

Mr. Christopher, who recently referred to the West Bank and Gaza as "disputed territories," told reporters that the U.S. still views the "territories as occupied territories."

Replying to a question on whether the U.S. had changed its position on the status of the West Bank and Gaza, Mr. Christopher said there is "absolutely no change...(the West Bank and Gaza) are occupied territories."

He said that the status of Jerusalem should be left to negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories and the "parties should not take steps that (would) interfere with the final solution."

Mr. Christopher did not rule out confederation between Jordan and the West Bank as a long-term solution, but [said] it was premature to discuss the issue at this point and the parties should concentrate on talks for the interim period.

Jordan has repeatedly said that confederation with a Palestinian entity would not be possible before the Palestinians exercise their complete rights in the occupied territories.

"The concept has been in the air for some time and it was raised with the Palestinians not in a definitive way," Mr. Christopher said.

"But, for the time being, we should concentrate on trying to find the best means for interim self-government authority, leaving longer-term solutions until the Palestinians and Israelis come to conclusions on interim steps," he said.

King Husayn told reporters that Jordan continues to seek a just and durable Middle East peace that "will be accepted by future generations and will return to the Palestinians their legitimate rights on their land."

The King denied "reports" that Jordan was planning to cancel its 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank as a preliminary step towards confederation with a Palestinian entity.

Responding to a question on the law under which the parliamentary elections will be held in November, the King said no final decision has been reached yet and that the opportunity was still there to continue debate on the issue.

King Husayn Wednesday dissolved the 11th Parliament and the government set Nov. 8 as the date for new elections. Uncertainty still engulfs the law under which the elections will be conducted and the Ministry of Interior has reportedly presented the King with a draft legislation that could replace the current law.

The King said the dissolution of parliament was prelude to holding the elections as it is not "possible to enter this period without taking these measures."

"The objective is to consolidate the democratic process and respect (that) all Jordanians are equal in rights and responsibilities as stated by the Constitution," the King said.

"We protect the Constitution, and our National Charter is the way to achieve our objectives for a better future," he said.

Mr. Christopher said he congratulates the King and Prime Minister al-Majali "on the steps that they are taking at the present time towards greater effectiveness of democracy in Jordan."

"I wish him well in the period between now and elections on Nov. 8," he said.

Jordanian-Palestinian Committee To Meet

JN0708093893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Aug 93 pp 26, 23

[By Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Text] Amman—The joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee will hold its second meeting at the Foreign Ministry in the next two days. Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar will lead the Jordanian side, and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, will lead the Palestinian side.

An authorized Foreign Ministry source told AL-DUSTUR that this meeting will name the chairmen of the six subcommittees formed in the Committee's first meeting held in Amman on 13 July. The subcommittees, which are to be made up of 10 members from each side, include: the Jerusalem subcommittee; the refugees subcommittee; the security subcommittee; the borders subcommittee; the economic and water affairs subcommittee; and the legislations and laws subcommittee.

The source explained that these meetings and subcommittees are a result of an agreement between His Majesty King Husayn and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during his recent visit to Amman. The subcommittees were formed to discuss joint issues and define negotiating positions.

Israeli, Jordanian Teams Reportedly Map Joint Border

JN0508201593 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 29 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] AL-BAYAN has learned that two teams of Jordanian and Israeli experts have completed drawing of the maps of the joint southern border between Jordan and Israel. This border extends from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of al-'Aqabah.

The job took nearly six weeks.

Hasan's Qatar Visit Termed 'Great Diplomatic Achievement'

JN0908095193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Aug 93 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Brave Qatar"]

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan's visit to Qatar and his talks with the Qatari heir apparent and senior officials represent a great diplomatic achievement for Jordan and Qatar and for inter-Arab relations, which have apparently ushered in a stage of recovery, renewal, and fresh start.

While viewing the visit with great attention and satisfaction, we would like to note that Qatar's Arab policy has always been characterized by openness, courage, and realism, even in the darkest moments of the breach in inter-Arab relations.

Qatar's wise, far-sighted position, which reflects a high sense of pan-Arab responsibility, is no doubt a concrete indication of the only choice left for the Arabs to restore their international standing; namely, ending the political breach and rebuilding long-awaited Arab solidarity.

Through this visit, Qatar and Jordan have together gone beyond verbal appeals and utterances about the importance of letting bygones be bygones, by offering a practical, tangible example leading to Arab solidarity, enhancing ties of Arab brotherhood, and building bridges of understanding and confidence.

The crown prince's visit to Qatar has deep implications, and is bound to produce good results. We are confident that the visit will be viewed as the beginning of a positive change in inter-Arab relations. The visit is highly significant, especially since it comes at a stage when there is a general Arab feeling that there is a need to restore amity, trust, and love between all Arab brothers.

Al-Majali Reviews Economic, Political Policy

JN0708200493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali at a seminar at the Jordanian Businessmen's Club in Amman on 7 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In its reply to the royal letter of designation, the government pledged to link the concepts of political democracy and economic democracy. This requires all of us to reassess the relationship between the private and public sectors, in a manner that ensures that the private sector will have freedom of initiative, action, investment, and trading. This enhances the caliber of your institutions and enables Jordan to have competitive production at home and abroad.

There is no doubt that our private sector inside and outside Jordan has offered many examples of its high resolve and ability to traverse the globe, sowing the seeds of prosperity and linking Jordan with the world, giving evidence of its excellence in production, dedication, and know-how. [passage omitted]

Since His Majesty King Husayn assumed power, we have managed to take large strides in our development and construction process and laid foundations that will soon enable us to embrace qualitative production and open competition, and move our economy toward stable growth.

However, competition should not lead to monopoly; freeing the market from constraints does not mean we are giving a free hand. We believe political and economic security depends on social security. While providing opportunities for creativity and for releasing latent potential, we are fully aware that every economic-administrative system has positive and negative aspects. A rising, active, and self-respecting society should not allow poverty to spread or unemployment to linger. We know careful investment is the key to resolving the double problem of poverty and unemployment. However, it also needs additional policies of social solidarity, constant training, reorienting the policy of education on all levels, and supporting charity and welfare organizations so the needy and the unemployed can find a real opportunity and a caring hand that restores to them their dignity and pride in their homeland. [passage omitted]

Perhaps our first priority should be to cut spending and get rid of all manifestations of weakness and laxity, starting with the smallest things—putting out an electrical lamp which we do not need—and ending with a sound, effective administration that fights routine and puts itself at the service of the citizen. We are the servants of the people, not their custodians.

The development process pursued by successive governments, and by the people, under the leadership of King Husayn Bin-Talal, may God watch over him, has taken us to a new stage which requires a new approach. It is no longer reasonable that the public sector should assume the responsibility of running commercial and industrial companies and institutions, or interfere—under justifications that are no longer acceptable—in pricing policies, and confiscate the freedom of the private sector, making decisions on its behalf. Therefore, the government will draw up a program to give the private sector a chance to assume its responsibility in running production and services. At the same time, however, the government will boost its capabilities to carry out its duty of control and observation, and to ensure justice, fight dishonesty, corruption, environmental pollution, wasting resources, and usurpation of rights. [passage omitted]

While seeking to reach a social contract, we will enhance the methods and mechanisms of participation so political democracy will be the twin of economic democracy. In order to translate the principle of participation in decision-making, I have requested that the Consultative Economic Council be revived. I have asked it to convene periodically so we can all hold discussions and—by way of reason, balanced thinking, and deep awareness of public interests—arrive at joint solutions to basic issues, such as investment legislations, tax policies, prices and wages policies, transferring the contributions of the public sector to the private sector, enforcing health and environmental control, and addressing the questions of poverty and unemployment. This is in addition to distributing the fruit of development to all regions of the homeland, encouraging investment and exportation, and developing and invigorating institutional structures in the private and public sectors to face new developments and challenges here and in the world around us. [passage omitted]

We have hurt a lot from successive developments. We have been generous beyond the capacity of our limited resources. Our humanitarian role has been alternately recognized and denigrated. In any case, neither the recognition nor the belittlement have had any effect on us, nor has either shaken our conscience. This is because our actions are prompted by our Arab affiliation, a clear conscience and sound policy.

Jordan has taken on burdens as a result of the Palestinian issue and the injustice done to the Palestinians, their hopelessness and denial of their fundamental rights. Since the Palestinian tragedy, not a decade has passed without Jordan, along with its brothers, having to go into a bloody war, or to cope with forced migrations or occupation of territory. The result has been that each and every Jordanian man or woman has internalized the Palestinian cause, and made it an organic part of their existence.

When the Palestinian territory was occupied in 1967, Jordan threw open the bridges and made available whatever finances and services and assistance it could muster. When the Palestinian people and brother Arabs chose the PLO to be the sole and legitimate representative of the Palesitinians, Jordan went along with this choice without forgetting for a single moment that blood and kin relations built up over the years will remain alive in the psyche and conscience of the Jordanian people. It was in this same spirit that Jordan approached its Arab brothers in Iraq. Jordan stood by them throughout the eight years of their war with Iran. Jordan would have preferred that the war did not take place at all so that thriving country's resources could have been devoted to serving the Arabs and their causes.

Then came the Gulf war in all its implications and reactions. Our position on that war was misunderstood. Jordan was wronged by those with whom it had close relations, when it hated for these ties to be severed due to a difference in outlook and opinion. Jordan wanted a purely Arab problem to be kept within the Arab fold. To date, Jordan has incurred the loss of $8 billion as a result of the war. Jordan is still suffering from the economic sanctions that are threatening its exports and imports, industries, and transport.

At the end of the Gulf war and the ensuing Arab disarray and fragmentation came the peace efforts that crystallized at the 1991 Madrid conference. Jordan joined the negotiations and, as usual, offered all the backing it could to its brothers in general and the Palestinians in particular. From the beginning, Jordan set for the peace efforts the goal of recovering the occupied Arab territory, water rights, the assurance of self-determination, a return of the refugees and displaced persons, and regaining the legitimate and legal rights so that we may live in peace and security insulated from destructive wars. Jordan also decided that peace must be fair, durable, incorporating all issues, and including all Arab fronts and territories, including Arab Jerusalem, the third holiest place. Jordan has exerted itself to highlight the independent Palestinian identity and extend all possible disinterested assistance. Throughout the 10 rounds of talks and the flurry of diplomatic activity in the region and the multilateral talks, Jordan has never compromised a principle or right, nor sat back and taken military superiority for granted.

By virtue of studies and consultations led by his majesty the supreme commander and his trusted crown prince, Jordan has developed an integrated picture of peace resting on justice and comprehensiveness, one acceptable to future generations, and under which these generations may lead free lives unshackled by fear of getting killed or being made homeless.

In its striving for its realization, Jordan has not lost its faith in God, nor in its capability to attain the peace it aspires to. I am not here outlining the peace process, but the point I would like to make here is that peace is no less costly or demanding than war. Building peace may indeed be a tougher and more complex task than waging war. Hence, we Jordanians must engage all our energies and brains in self-building and self-reliance. If peace opens the doors to development and investment, it also calls for an innovative and creative effort in a new peaceful world that has its own challenges.

I do not want to leave the impression that peace will change our order of priorities or shake our principles. Jordan is for the Arabs and belongs to the Arab nation. Jordan has an unwavering, unquestionable faith that to build a just peace we have to rebuild the Arab order and normalize inter-Arab relations. Instructed by His Majesty King Husayn, this government has expressed a readiness, since I took office, to stretch its hand to all Arab brothers and turn over a new leaf so we may establish relations founded on mutual respect. Some brother Arab states have been receptive to Jordan's call for restoring Arab ties to normalcy. We are confident that all concerned are convinced that this will bring dividends to all of us, since major challenges lie ahead. All of us are encountering such considerable risks that no one can handle them alone.

You are aware that His Majesty King Husayn enjoys a global stature, is widely respected for his attributes, style of government, and inherent belief in democracy and human rights. We are investing this good name in our relations with friendly countries so we may into worthwhile partnerships. We cannot live in isolation from the rest of the world, nor pretend not to see what is going on around us, at a time when technology has so dwarfed the distances between its different corners that it is now called a global village.

We will boost our relations with Turkey, France, and the Islamic states in Asia and Russia. We will prove to them that this Arab/Islamic country is a model for democracy and human rights, and a shining example of our virtuous religion. We will show them that this country believes in the oneness of God without extremism, has respect for others' rights, keeps its promises, advocates peace, dignifies women's rights, promotes cleanliness and purity, and supports moderation and centrism.

We will also strive to fight intransigence in the application of the economic sanctions resolutions on Iraq. We raised this matter with Mr. Warren Christopher during his recent trip to the Middle East. We hope our efforts will elicit the kind of response that will take this injustice off our backs. Aware of the importance of its position, the scope of its ambitions, the limit of its resources, and the magnitude of the challenges ahead, Jordan is making these political efforts with a view to building a pioneering, healthy, and confident economy, where qualified people are given the opportunity to prove themselves, and the needy and unemployed receive the attention they deserve. We will adopt whatever polices it takes to promote this economy, including the right preparation of the young to carry the trust forward. Women will be afforded the equal opportunity to stand side by side with men in the workplace and the civil service for the good of our country. We will seek out imperfections and weaknesses to rectify them. We will also seek out our strengths and deploy them in the service of our country. We will make the most of whatever opportunity that presents itself in the area of investing in technology, the standards and specificiations, and training.

Our new Jordan must prove that it is a modern and young country capable of making tough decisions and ready to make sacrifices in the short-term so it reaps the fruits in the medium- and long-term. Given sound management, effective participation, role distribution, absence of constraints, controlled systems of followup and supervision, and an even-handed handling of affairs of the general public, such an accomplishment should be possible. [passage omitted]

Government To Ensure 'Fair, Unbiased' Elections

JN0708114993 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has held a press conference to explain the measures the Government has taken to ensure the upcoming 8 November parliamentary elections will be fair, unbiased, and democratic.

The minister explained that the measures will ensure the smooth running of the elections, asserting that it will be the first time in Jordan that elections will be held on the basis of political pluralism.

Minister Discusses Electoral Preparations

JN0708174893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Interior Minister Salamah Hammad held a news conference this afternoon at the ministry, in which he spoke about the government's measures to prepare for the 1993 parliamentary elections.

At the start of his news conference, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad said the Interior Ministry began early to adopt easy measures to complete registration and transferring names on the voter lists, as part of measures by the ministry to hold the 1993 parliamentary elections. He said this process will continue until 15 August.

The minister added: After the issuance of a second royal decree on 9 July to hold the parliamentary elections, the Council of Ministers decided to set 8 November for holding elections for the next House of Representatives. A royal decree also dissolved the 11th House three months before the date of voting for the 12th House, which is the same date on which the previous House was elected. This shows the political leadership's respect for the Constitution in order to safeguard democracy in this country as an approach and an example to be followed by others.

The interior minister added: In light of the above, the Interior Ministry should announce the timeframe set for the examination of lists and the division of constituencies into subregions, measures to allow employees and citizens to run for elections, and election campaigns.

In this regard, the minister said: "First, checking the voter lists. This process will last for 57 days. It began on Sunday, 1 August, and will end on Sunday, 26 September. Second, dividing constituencies into subregions; ballot boxes; distribution of cards; and objections to these measures. This process will last 36 days, beginning on Monday, 27 September, and ending on Monday, 1 November. Third, the measures for the nomination of employees, acceptance, and rejection. This process will last for 40 days, beginning 40 days before the date set for holding the elections, that is, starting Wednesday, 29 September 1993. Fourth, the measures for nomination, which begin 25 days before the date set for the balloting, and will last for three days. This process, that is, will begin on Thursday, 14 October 1993 and end on Saturday 16 October 1993. Fifth, the election campaign, which will begin on the day of nomination until the day that precedes the day set for the balloting. That is, it will begin on Thursday 14 October and end on Saturday, 6 November."

The interior minister then spoke about the Interior Ministry's preparations to complete the parliamentary elections. He pointed out that several revision committees were set up on 30 June, adding that the ministry also announced the names of the centers for registering new voters who reached 19 years of age. In this context, the minister said the number of people registered so far is 314,885, making the total by today 1,343,874 voters.

The interior minister also spoke about the tasks assigned to the centers that receive requests for transferring names and the facilities offered during registration and transferring names. He noted that the Interior Ministry has entered the voter lists into the computer, in a first-of-its-kind process in Jordan, thus making use of all scientific and technical methods.

He said this process is meant to check the lists, prevent repetition, facilitate the issuance of election cards and the distribution of voters to balloting centers.

The interior minister said that instructions will be published in the newspapers, particularly referring to the issuance of new cards for all voters and that a personal photo will no longer be a basic requirement.

The interior minister added: "We look forward to handling the democratic process with extreme concern. The elections will, God willing, be just as King Husayn wanted in his letter of designation and repeated royal instructions—the fairest, easiest, and most accurate elections. We hope all citizens will interact in this pleasant atmosphere, which we hope to attain honestly and straightforwardly. May God give us success."

Answering a question on a possible amendment to the Elections Law, giving the voter one vote in his election constituency, Hammad said: "As regards the Elections Law, I think His Majesty King Husayn was asked two days ago about this issue and asserted that so far the question has not been referred to committees, but the debate has begun and you were the first to contribute to this debate in the press. The debate is going on and ideas are being put forward through the media. However, so far I can report nothing new in this connection. As for the election constituencies, it is common knowledge that registration is about to end and that any change in the election constituencies requires new registration. Therefore, I believe that we are through with the the question of election constituencies."

Regarding the participation of political parties in the forthcoming elections, Hammad said: "As you know, 20 parties have been licensed in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Party activity is now governed by the Parties Law. If the parties want to run for the elections, they are totally free to do that, provided they are licensed. The licensed parties are not allowed to deal with unlicensed sides. The unlicensed parties, therefore, are certainly not allowed to operate. This is the law."

Answering a question on how far Jordan has benefited from the previous election experiment, especially for expatriate Jordanians, the interior minister said: "As a matter of fact we have benefited a great deal from the 1989 experiment. At the level of the Interior Ministry, its agencies now have good experience and they can perform their duty regarding all aspects of the elections. As you know, Jordan has also sent a delegation to help conduct elections in Cambodia. We feel now that we have the resources and the expertise to conduct the elections in a professional, accurate, and fair manner, with God's help. As for the Jordanian expatriates, we are considering the matter, but you know that this question requires many measures and will not be resolved in one, two, or three months. However, it is one of our future plans and hopes."

Answering a question on how he foresees the turnout, compared with the 1989 elections, the interior minister said: "The voter turnout in 1989 was not really up to our ambitions. We hope it will be better in the next elections. What makes us hope that is that citizens now know the importance of their vote for the homeland. Also, citizens now know that this is a right and a duty at the same time. I believe, therefore, that citizens are now fully aware of this. Besides, our measures will be easier and more accurate in the forthcoming elections. We hope to see a higher turnout."

'New Interpretation' of Election Law Possible

JN0808142893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Aug 93 pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporters Nirmin Murad and Ayman al- Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Officials are examining the possibility of using legal loopholes in the current Election Law to introduce the one-person-one-vote system in what is seen as a bid to evade confrontation with the opposition over the constitutionality of introducing a new law.

Instead of amending or changing the Election Law through a provisional legislation, thus incurring the wrath of the opposition, which has said it would contest any electoral change that is not passed by Parliament, the government may use administrative provisions to bring about the desired change.

The current Election Law has been interpreted to mean that voters have as many votes as the number of seats in their constituencies, even though it does not state that directly. However, sources say, the government may offer a new interpretation of the law, to mean that voters can cast their ballot for only one candidate, and enforce it through administrative orders. The government has the legal authority to issue regulations explaining the provisions of laws.

Political observers say that by effecting the change without issuing a temporary law, the government hopes to preempt attempts by the opposition to contest its decision in court if it decided to change the legislation.

Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad said Sunday that he was not aware of plans to use administrative instruments to change the meaning of the law but did not rule out that "others" might be examining that possibility. He did not elaborate, nor was it immediately known what was meant by the statement.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times last week that the government has presented His Majesty King Husayn with a draft legislation that mainly proposes replacing the current bloc voting system with the one-person-one-vote formula.

But Mr. Hammad reiterated earlier government assurances that no final decision on the law had been made and the Cabinet had not yet discussed the issue.

"This subject has not been discussed by the cabinet yet...other sides than the Ministry of Interior might be (discussing) the matter but as far as I know there is no such 'project' or any discussion of it," Mr. Hammad told a press conference Saturday.

Legal experts say it would be illegal for the government to offer a new interpretation of the law since such a move would render unconstitutional the election of parliaments based upon this legislation and all legislation enacted by them would have to be nullified.

"The law has been interpreted to mean that voters have as many votes as the number of seats in their constituencies. Any attempt to interpret the law differently would be illegal," prominent lawyer Taher Hikmat told the Jordan Times Sunday.

"(Any new interpretation) would make a mockery of the previous legal interpretation of the law under which the previous parliaments were elected. It would render the Election Law itself illegal," he said.

Mr. Hikmat also said the government would have to be legally accountable on its action if it changed the law through administrative orders which are no longer immune to being contested in court. He added the new law of the Higher Court of Justice revokes all the immunities that these orders used to enjoy. Under the new law, he said, all decisions are liable to being contested in court.

Senator Salim Masa'idah, who was the minister of interior during the 1989 elections and who was a major player in drawing up the current Election Law, told the JORDAN TIMES Saturday that even though the law does not specifically say that voters have as many votes as the number of seats in their districts, "the legislation in its entirety" give voters that right.

He said a new interpretation of the law will be liable to legal contest and would "cast doubt on the credibility of our practices in the past."

"Elections should not be held under a law that could be legally contested" and if any new interpretation of the law is made, it should come from the bureau of legislation at the Prime Ministry, he stressed.

At his press conference yesterday, Mr. Hammad left the door open for electoral changes, saying that everything was still under consideration and there were proposals and ideas which were "being studied by all sides."

"There are no specific proposals. There is an opinion to benefit from the experience in the last four years, and this proposal is still being studied by all sides," Mr. Hammad said.

The minister, however, ruled out the possibility of redrawing the voting districts which even supporters of changing the law say must be done if the one-person-one-vote formula is introduced.

"The issue of redrawing the voting districts is behind us now because that would require new registration of voters and the process has been nearly completed," Mr. Hammad said.

The minister rejected criticism that the government is unjustifiably late in announcing its decision on the law which will govern the next elections, saying that 'enough' time remains between now and the election date on Nov. 8.

Political parties and prospective candidates are frustrated by the delay as they are not able to formulate or start their election campaigns. Political parties have recently urged the government to clarify its stand on the fate of the law "as soon as possible."

"I don't believe there is any delay," Mr. Hammad said, "the subject needs discussion and debate." The minister, who as director general of the Ministry of Interior played a major role in conducting the 1989 elections, also said that King Husayn's decision to dissolve Parliament was an indication of the credibility of the regime which would hold elections within their constitutional time.

The dissolution of Parliament was seen by opposition parties, particularly by the Islamists, as a prelude to an inevitable government decision to change the law unilaterally and as a "blow" to democracy.

But, the minister said, "we are the ones who call for the protection of democracy and upholding the constitution and the law.

The leadership of this country is the one which sought to create this (democratic) atmosphere.

Information Ministry Approves New Newspaper

JN0708063993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—An application for a new newspaper—"AL-NAHDAH"—has been approved by the Ministry of Information. The founders of the newspaper include a number of Royal Court officials and university professors, among them Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki. The editor of the newspaper will be Muhammad Dawudiyah, who is now director of the information and public relations department at the Royal Court, but he is expected to resign his post to contest the next parliamentary elections in his hometown of al-Tafilah. The other founders include Royal Court Director General Munir Durrah, Royal Court Adviser Ahmad Salamah, Al al-Bayt University President Adnan al-Bakhit and Ministry of Culture Director General Muhammad 'Amayrah. It was not immediately known whether the new publication will be a weekly or a daily. But according to information available, it will have a capital of JD [Jordanian Dinars] 130,000 paid equally by the founders. The application is subject to further approval by the Council of Ministers, which is expected to be granted.

Dallul Leaves for Damascus Talks on Army Deployment

NC0708094593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has left for Damascus, where he will hold talks with Syrian officials on the situation in the south, the ongoing preparations for deploying the Lebanese Army in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] area of operation, and the latest political developments.

Army Deploys Inside UNIFIL Operations Area

NC0908105793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Beirut, 9 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul today affirmed the deployment of the Lebanese Army, which started at four axes inside the area of operations of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in the south after receiving UN approval.

Dallul said this movement is the beginning of total deployment in the Lebanese territories under the emergency forces in the coming days.

In statements made to MENA this morning, the Lebanese minister said that this important step, which the army and people have been waiting for, is to protect the land and citizens and provide security and services at a time when these services have been almost nonexistent from these isolated regions. This will bolster the steadfastness of the citizens and strengthen their rights and privileges.

Responding to a question on the size of the military force to be deployed and how long the forces will stay, he said that the army deployment is continuing in these areas and we will increase the size of the forces according to the needs of the operation.

Dallul affirmed that the Lebanese Army's deployment in the south will continue and increase until the occupied land is liberated.

Responding to a question from MENA on whether resistance operations against Israel will be carried out from within the deployment area, Dallul said that no one can wander around carrying weapons in the areas where the army is deployed. He affirmed that the only permissible weapons in the region are those carried by the Army. [passage omitted]

Army Deployment Said Completed

NC0908101193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Army has completed its deployment in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] area of operations. The army deployed along three axes; a company deployed in Qana township, while another company [as heard] deployed in Dayr Dghayya, Bi'r al-Salasil, and Juwayya.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul met in al-Yarzah this morning with his Irish counterpart to discuss the army deployment in the south.

In a related development, a meeting was held in the Government House this morning among Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Ilyas Hubayqah, Social Affairs Director General Ni'mat Kan'an, the Interior Ministry director general, and the chairman of the UN human affairs mission (Robert Sourie). UN General Regional Coordinator (Hans Vanderclott) attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Sourie said that he was dispatched to Beirut by the UN secretary general to discuss the general situation in Lebanon with competent officials. He stated that he will head for the south today to assess the urgent needs and report to the Lebanese Government and the international organization. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments

NC0708112693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] In an interview with our radio carried on the program "Responsible Talk," Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz denied the announcement by Information Minister Michel Samahah that the cordon states will hold a meeting in Beirut on Tuesday [10 August]. Buwayz said that the date for the cordon countries' meeting cannot be set before the date for the new round of peace talks is known. Buwayz predicted that the peace talks will resume in early September.

Concerning the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the areas under the control of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] and the work of the committee examining security measures, Buwayz said: The situation is similar to the one concerning Christopher's visit. We are criticized if Christopher comes, and criticized if he does not. The same thing is true with the Army. If we do not send it, our detractors will say that we are incapable of doing so. Alternatively, if the Army was sent to the south, they will say that we have bowed to [Israeli-requested] security arrangements.

Buwayz added: The UNIFIL-controlled areas have a well-known problem because UNIFIL acts as a symbolic force and does not engage in any police functions. Right now, we can see cracks in the UNIFIL-controlled areas. Following the recent military operation, some sensitivities surfaced that make us fear renewed tensions and certain security developments.

The dispatch of the Army to the south is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 425. Considering that the UNIFIL is not carrying out its tasks in full, that there is fear of local tensions, and that the function of the state is to restore its land we saw all this as an opportunity to dispatch the Army.

Commenting on the resignation of Ambassador [to Washington] Simon Karam and its link to a report Karam had submitted to the Foreign Ministry about Israeli operations in the south, Buwayz said: No one has blamed the Foreign Ministry and no investigation has been made. We have to differentiate between analysis received from our missions and precise intelligence reports. What we received from Amb. Karam was a number of pessimistic assessments, not unlike those made by other ambassadors and the Lebanese media, with regard to the situation in the south.

Buwayz added that Amb. Karam is not eager to stay in public service and that this is the primary reason for his resignation. Another reason is that he was the target of negative campaigns by the media. Some of these campaigns were inspired by people who wanted his job. This disturbed Karam because he felt that it weakened his credibility and undermined his function. Karam's resignation has been discussed for over two months now. There is also the question of whether his cooperation with the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks has been satisfactory.

Asked if he has any differences with the prime minister and if it is true that he may be relieved from his post in the first cabinet reshuffle, Buwayz said: We are part of the political scene, which is like an endless battle. We are ready for any battle of this kind if the reports are true, but I doubt it.

Concerning the campaign Minister Walid Junblatt mounted against him and the prime minister in connection with the hospitality shown to Secretary Christopher, Buwayz said: I did not understand what Minister Junblatt said and I am not the first person to fail to understand him. If I take his words at face value, I will not be able to comment on them. I would thank him for the epithets he used, for these were good ones, if he really meant them. But if he meant the opposite, then I am at a loss as to his line of argument. I would have understood it had he criticized the entire government for receiving Secretary Christopher. What hospitality have we shown compared to that of Bayt al-Din [mountain resort palace affiliated with Junblatt]? We believe that the visit took place in accordance with standard procedure as well as common practice.

Buwayz explained that he had reservations about the appointments at the Internal Security Forces, for they overlooked the balance of power and the customary practices and lacked fairness in terms of regional and sectarian distribution.

Concerning reports of a meeting between President al-Hirawi and Secretary Christopher, Buwayz said: This was in line with the Constitution. Is it necessary for every president, minister, or official going abroad to take along representatives of all sects? If this were true, then we should admit that we are not a state, but a group of tribes holding international talks.

Hizballah Hails Move

NC0808124793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has expressed his dismay at the proliferation of remarks about sedition, noting that Hizballah rejects any kind of sedition. Nasrallah welcomed the Army deployment in the areas of operations of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon for defense and liberation.

In a speech during a rally held to honor the martyrs of the Israeli aggressive action, Hasan Nasrallah said that Israel wants to force a peace treaty on Lebanon with Israeli conditions. He said this treaty aims to impose hegemony on all that Lebanon owns. He called for preparing a counterplan if we want to confront such aggressive actions, stressing that we must safeguard our future.

Hasan Nasrallah reiterated the need for preserving the resistance option, urging all Lebanese to end their silence. He said if Israel wants to enter the south it will suffer heavy losses.

Hizballah Message to People Thanks Syria, Iran

NC0708075393 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has addressed a message to our steadfast people in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa'. He said: During the brutal war days, you proved to be an honorable and honest people. Your patience during the eviction from your homes and at the tragedy of the destruction are a testimony to your great souls. The Israeli enemy bet, but lost. He discovered a new illusion and paid dearly. The nation, people, resistance, generations, and sanctities bet on your fortitude and firmness and won. You gave the history of this people and great kinsfolk a new evidence that blood triumphs over the sword and faithful willpower over the oppressors and executioners. I extend utmost appreciation to the most faithful people. We vow to remain together and struggle for free life. We will remain together honest people who reject humiliation no matter what the sacrifice.

Nasrallah said that in the past we served you and we will continue to serve you and resist the occupation together and build again what the aggressive action destroyed. Our current initiative includes two steps. First, we declare our readiness to start renovation of all the homes that have been damaged in all villages in the south and western al-Biqa' beginning today, Saturday.

Second, all kinsfolk whose houses were completely destroyed will be ensured temporary alternative homes and be provided with aid for their daily requirements.

We have completed part of our work and ad hoc committees will survey the damaged homes in preparation for providing aid to rebuild these homes. This is in addition to the aid that will be provided by other parties.

Nasrallah stressed that the root cause of the disaster is the existence of Israel, which was imposed by force and terrorism. Why do they want you to see things lopsided, portraying disease as medicine and the good resistance as absolute evil? He warned against the trap being set for Lebanon, its people, and the nation. He warned against being dragged into such traps that might destroy everything.

He said: Don't listen to the weak and defeated so that you will not be defeated. Our people and kinsfolk: Think of the future and learn from past and present lessons that you should confront Israel, the most dangerous, fiercest, and ugliest enemy. Remember you possess the resistance, which is the greatest bastion.

Concluding his message, Nasrallah said: Unless you defend yourselves, unless you have strong willpower, and unless you have advanced weapons, who will defend or protect you? The American master, the Security Council, or the worn-out regimes? This is your battle and this is the war being imposed on you by the Israeli enemy and his American masters. This is your war whether you like it or not. Your land is occupied and your fate is threatened, and your resources are coveted by Zionist ambitions. It is your holy defense war and not the war of others on your land. We thank Syria led by al-Asad and Muslim Iran because they are the only countries in the world that strongly support your right to defend yourselves and to achieve liberation, independence, and sovereignty.

Hizballah's Nasrallah Outlines Principles

NC0908094993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] At the rally of loyalty to the martyrs of confrontation held in Beirut yesterday to pay tribute to Islamic Resistance martyrs, Hizballah defined its positions on current political developments in the wake of the Zionist aggressive actions in the south and western al-Biqa' that killed and wounded hundreds of people and displaced hundreds of thousands while destroying their homes. These positions included the resistance option regarding the enemy, the assertion that Israel is responsible for many wars in Lebanon, the announcement that the Hizballah leadership will not be dragged into sedition in the south, and a call for officials to tell the people the truth no matter how harsh and painful it might be. These positions and others were stated by Hizballah Secretary General Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah during his speech at the rally.

Nasrallah affirmed that our only option is resistance. There is no other option because capitulation is not an option but an abandonment of willpower and values. Draining the enemy's powers is not the most important thing about resistance. It is more important to round up the energy of this people, he said.

Nasrallah affirmed that the crime of assassinating [former Hizballah Secretary General] 'Abbas al-Musawi, may the Lord sanctify his soul, was enough to arouse the feelings of all the Lebanese—Muslims and Christians alike—and make them express their anger and fury.

The Hizballah secretary general noted that Israel is not just a problem for Lebanon and the Arab world but for the entire region. Israel does not want peace and security in Lebanon and its agents have been responsible for many wars here, he said. He added that this enemy belongs to a different species of humans, because humans are merciful by nature. They killed their own prophets so what do you expect them to do to our prophets and to us, he asked?

Nasrallah remarked that the enemy and what is right are diametrically opposed, adding that the enemy can never support what is right. The enemy does not know peace and conciliation. Therefore, we are up against an enemy that only knows how to break promises and betray.

The Hizballah secretary general pointed out that Israel does not want development in Lebanon. Therefore, it is trying to deny the people a dignified life and prevent them from reconstructing their country until they sign a peace treaty according to Zionist terms without discussion. The solution [for Israel] lies in Lebanon taking part in the 11th round [of Arab-Israeli peace talks] and endorsing Zionist demands.

Strangely enough, Nasrallah added, the Israeli leaders tell the people that the original cause for the attacks was the [Katyusha] rocket attacks. American Secretary of State Christopher implied this when he said to the people of the region: If you want to prevent what happened in Lebanon from happening in your countries, accept the enemy's terms, Nasrallah said.

Commenting on reports about sedition in the south, Nasrallah said: If they are referring to us when they talk about sedition, we declare that we will not be dragged into any sedition because we love our people, fight for them, and defend them. He added: Stop whispering in their ears and let these people be. If some want to [word indistinct] the deployment of the Lebanese Army as a slogan, we advise them to look for another slogan. Instead you should find a way to support the Resistance and give it the weapons to continue the confrontation. Anyone who cannot afford to exercise resistance should be truthful with the Resistance, because our people do not want to die like sheep, they want to die with dignity like prophets and imams, Nasrallah said.

The secretary general called on all Arabs, Muslims, and Christians to begin reconstruction and confrontation simultaneously because the battle needs big men and proud mujahidin.

'Abbas Hammadi Arrives in Beirut From Germany

NC0608182893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1817 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] 'Abbas Hammadi, one of the two Lebanese brothers who were sentenced to prison in Germany for terrorist crimes, arrived at Beirut Airport this evening on board a Middle East Airlines flight. To receive him at the airport were three Hizballah leaders and two of his brothers.

The public security organs prevented journalists from approaching Hammadi, who left the airport through a back door.

Fadlallah Criticizes Christopher's 'Political War'

NC0608170493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said today in his Friday sermon that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's activities are similar to the activities of the infantry after the Israeli bombardment. He said the infantry this time around is not Israeli, but American.

He said he believed that the Israeli bombardment was started to divide the Arab arena. The advance of the infantry has started in the political war because the road was blocked before negotiations. He said what they want to do now is open a way for the negotiations through the Israeli war.

Fadlallah criticized the spiritual summit held in Bkirki because its final communique did not mention the resistance. He said he hoped this was an oversight. He affirmed that resistance means martyrdom, which is the ultimate goal in both Christianity and Islam.

'Hundreds' in South Protest Katyusha Rocket Attacks

NC0708102493 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Aug 7 (AFP)—Hundreds of south Lebanese villagers have protested against guerrilla rocket attacks that provoke Israeli retaliation, security officials said Saturday.

Residents of al-Qulaylah, (Hinniyah), al-Mansurah and al-'Izziyah blocked the main road on Friday between the port of Tyre and al- Naqurah, headquarters of the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon, chanting: "No to Katyusha rocket attacks from our villages, yes to the deployment of the Lebanese Army."

The Lebanese Government announced this week it would be sending its own troops to the area patrolled by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), in a move widely seen as an attempt to curb guerrilla attacks launched from the region against Israel.

The protesters refused to go back to their villages and have moved in to semi-constructed apartment blocks, the officials said. The outskirts of their villages were bombarded by Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) after guerrillas fired seven rockets at the SLA in Israel's self-declared "security zone" Thursday and Friday.

Israel subjected Lebanon to its most ferocious bombardment since its invasion of 1982 for a week from July 25 in an attempt to stop rocket attacks by Iranian-backed Hizballah and radical Palestinian guerrillas.

Junblatt Calls for Peace With Israel

NC0708073893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Progressive Socialist Party leader Minister Walid Junblatt has called on the Arabs to listen to their conscience, pointing out that we live in a different world. In an interview published in the last issue of the magazine AL-AFKAR, Junblatt said: There is no equilibrium in the world. There are major countries such as the United States that care only for their own interests. Meanwhile, the Arabs are trudging along a path of death and destruction. Therefore, I call on them to listen to their conscience, if they still have one. As time goes by, we may find ourselves forced to make more concessions regarding land, water, and oil.

Junblatt added: Lebanon cannot go on sacrificing endlessly. Some want to see Beirut turned into another Hanoi. But the Lebanese cannot bear such a burden alone. The Arabs should share the financial and military burden with the Lebanese. Are they ready to do that?

Junblatt said: It is true that there is a legitimate resistance to the occupation, but we have to weigh matters in view of the Israeli-U.S. response. Right now, Israel is wreaking havoc in the south. Unlike 1982, Israel is willing to send tens of thousands of southerners, their villages in ruin, fleeing to Beirut and the mountain. Can we not see matters for what they are and do what is best? The Israeli offensive was a signal sent by Clinton to the Arabs. More will follow and it is time we understood the message. All the achievements made by the government since Prime Minister al- Hariri assumed office lie in shambles.

What is needed, in my opinion, is a cease-fire. I would go as far as to say that what is needed is peace and a truce with Israel before it is too late. I take the responsibility for this view. And, for the record, I note that the terms of [Egyptian-Israeli peace accords signed in] Camp David in 1979 were better. I am certain that Israel and America will ask us for water from al-Litani and the Nile. [passage omitted]

SLA's Lahd Appeals to Syria To 'Control' Hizballah

NC0608120993 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0950 GMT 6 Aug 93

[News conference by South Lebanese Army Commander General Antoine Lahd at his home in Marj 'Uyun on 6 August—recorded]

[Text] Only a few days have passed since the cessation of military operations that buffeted south Lebanon throughout the past week, leaving behind destruction, devastation, and hundreds of dead or injured. The same parties that caused this earthquake, as [Chamber of Deputies Speaker] Nabih Birri called it, again have begun releasing irresponsible statements boasting about imaginary victories as if nothing has happened. Therefore, and to avoid a recurrence of mistakes and to explain the facts, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] command believes it must clarify the following:

The SLA command regrets the civilian dead and injured, devastation, and eviction of people in the dear south as a result of the Israeli military operation in the past week. This command had repeatedly warned those concerned against persisting in their acts of aggression against the border strip and northern Israel and noted the danger of such acts. However, the warnings were not taken seriously and what happened was only a natural result, particularly since Hizballah's increasing acts of aggression made the Israeli Defense Force [IDF] lose patience. The IDF was forced to put an end to the arrogance of this organization and those who collaborate with it. Heavier devastation and a larger number of casualties would have been inflicted had the SLA command not borne in mind throughout the operation certain considerations.

We safeguarded the lives of the innocent civilian population as much as possible. Thus, appeals were repeatedly broadcast over the Voice of the South to the population before every operation was started. We did this despite our foreknowledge that these warnings would enable Hizballah members to vacate their positions and shelter in safe areas. On this occasion, we would like to remind everyone that the field survey of the results of the aerial, land, and sea bombardment proved that the operations only targeted Hizballah posts and the collaborating organizations, specifically in the villages where they were barricading themselves and using civilians as shields.

We were concerned not to target any Lebanese Army position, despite the fact that this army repeatedly bombed SLA positions, because the Lebanese Army is the pillar of the homeland and we wanted to preserve it so that a strong state can be rebuilt that would ensure security and stability to all citizens and preserve the people's dignity. We also did not want to expose the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] to military operations out of concern for their security and respect for their international status.

After this clarifaction, I must remind you that those who tamper with the security of south Lebanon consistently justify their actions as resistance to Israeli occupation of part of Lebanese territories. However, they forget that a genuine resistance should come from inside and not outside the occupied land. A genuine resistance will have as its goal liberation and not destruction. Since the objective conditions for liberation are unavailable, and the resistance failed to achieve the least of its declared goals, it brings the people further devastation. So it had better stop. Otherwise, they would revive the lie of Palestinian resistance, which has taken a substitute homeland in Lebanon, particularly in the south on the pretext of fighting Israel. It humiliated the Lebanese and caused the destruction of Lebanon while its fighters did not dare confront the Israeli machine when it moved against them in 1972 and 1982.

The so-called resistance does not serve Lebanon but harms it. It is non-Lebanese and even non-Arab, as proved by the Arab states' stand on it. It calls itself the Islamic Resistance while in fact it is an Islamic fundamentalist movement created to serve Iran's interest. It does not represent the hopes and aspirations of the Lebanese and does not serve their interest. The Lebanese who are members of this resistance do not represent more than one per thousand of Lebanon's population. Therefore, we believe it is a shame on the Lebanese Government to sell southern Lebanon to Iran as previous governments sold it to the Palestinians.

The government called on the people of the south who left their villages following the Israeli operation to return to these villages and offered them assistance in rebuilding what has been destroyed.

We greatly welcome all those returning and wish them well. But we advise them not to start reconstructing their houses until the state deploys the Army in their areas and gives it clear and firm instructions to protect these villages from reinfiltration by those who claim to be resistance fighters. Otherwise, the story will just repeat itself and the aliens among our kinsmen will return to act as they did in the past and force the Israeli military machine and the SLA to intervene again, as was the case last week, to put an end to their actions.

We will not remain silent, and I believe that Israel will not remain silent, over any attacks similar to those that caused the events of last week. But we and the Israeli Defense Forces will not harm any village or hamlet that prevents Hizballah from turning it into a base for its attacks against the border strip and northern Israel.

We are confident that the majority of the people in the south are opposed to the actions carried out by the so-called Islamic resistance but that these people are helpless in confronting Hizballah's weapons and need the state's protection and the presence of the Army on their side so that they can be bold enough to express their true feelings. Let the state try to do this and then it will see the results.

The state recently took some measures, or threatened to take some measures, against those residing in the border strip after accusing them of collaborating with Israel. We hope that the state will face reality. The people of the border strip are Lebanese and have not and will not ever abandon their Lebanese identity or renounce their loyalty to the homeland. But they are living in special conditions not of their own creation. Supposedly, these conditions are not unknown to the regime's people who know that no one can live in this region without recognizing the Israeli presence and acclimatizing himself to it.

Every state has the right to retrieve its territories if occupied by others. Of course, it is the Lebanese state's right, and even duty, to do so militarily if it can or through peaceful means and negotiations. Unfortunately, Lebanon is so weak that it cannot even think of the military solutions to retrieve the occupied territories in the south, east, north, and Mount Lebanon. I believe that we have no option other than the peaceful endeavor through our participation in the peace negotiations that began in October 1991 in Madrid with the participation of all Arab parties led by those who are raising the slogans of confrontation and steadfastness.

Our problem with Israel would be an easy one if the Lebanese Government was its own master. If it is necessary to wait for the others' approval before reaching a just peace with Israel that will restore our territories and peace and security to Israel's northern borders, then let us avoid provoking the Israeli military machine for the sake of protecting the people, who have paid more than they can afford for the wars of others and are being asked today to sacrifice whatever life they have left for the peace of others while being deprived of this peace themselves.

On this occasion, there is no harm in addressing an appeal to his excellency President Hafiz al-Asad—everyone knows his influence and deep knowledge of what is going on in Lebanon—to help the government control Hizballah's unbridled behavior along the lines of the action taken against other armed organizations. He knows that Hizballah is an absolute evil for Lebanon and a source of danger even to Syria itself. He also knows, or should know, that his influence in Lebanon is linked today to the restoration of security and peace to that country's anguished people. Will there be a response?

Ex-Envoy to U.S. Reportedly Warned of Israeli Attack

PM0608160593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Aug 93 p2

[Unattributed report: "The Lebanese Ambassador to Washington Submits His Resignation to al-Hirawi"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Lawyer Simon Karam, Lebanon's ambassador to Washington, submitted his resignation the day before yesterday after 16 months in the post.

AL-HAYAH has learned that Karam submitted his resignation to President Ilyas al-Hirawi at B'abda Palace at his own initiative, and that President al-Hirawi tried to change his mind but failed.

The resignation read as follows: "I have the honor to submit my resignation from the post of Lebanon's ambassador to the United States and membership of the Lebanese delegation to the peace negotiations. I thank you for your confidence and support during my work in al-Biqa', Beirut, and then Washington."

In 1990 Karam was appointed governor of al-Biqa' and later became acting governor of Beirut, in addition to his original post, until he was appointed ambassador to the United States last year.

In reply to questions about the causes and background of his resignation, Karam yesterday maintained silence even with his friends, who contacted or visited him to find out. He said he wished to rest and did not wish to say anything about the resignation.

But there has been speculation in press circles, particularly in the wake of AL-HAYAH's report the day before yesterday to the effect that Karam had sent a report to the Lebanese Government just before the devastating Israeli aggression on the south and Western al-Biqa', containing information that Israel intended to deal a military blow to Lebanon. The publication of that information caused an uproar in government and political circles. According to sources close to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, the prime minister was not informed by the Foreign Ministry [about the ambassador's report.] A number of ministers have told AL-HAYAH that they decided to take the news report to the cabinet yesterday evening to raise the issue and inquire why the cabinet was not given the prior information sent by Karam.

Although Karam refused to go into the details of the repercussions of that information, various official sources have sent reports to Beirut papers about these repercussions within the pillars of the regime.

Lebanese political sources say that "by submitting his resignation" the Lebanese ambassador "ended a controversy, which had intensified over the past few months, about the status of the Lebanese Embassy in Washington and expected diplomatic appointments and also about arguments between Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and in their circles about Karam and whether or not he should stay in his post."

As Karam is not saying anything, people close to him maintain that, having discovered that there was no solidarity or coordination among officials concerned regarding such major issues as the Israeli aggression, Karam opted out before being ousted and made a scapegoat."

Ireland's Dempsey Arrives To Inspect UN Contingent

NC0708064993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Noel Dempsey, Irish minister for defense affairs [title as heard], arrived in Beirut yesterday leading a delegation from the Irish Defense Ministry. He said that the purpose of his visit is to inspect the Irish UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] contingent operating in south Lebanon and to see the destruction inflicted in the past 10 days. He denied that his visit is linked to the Lebanese Army deployment in the UNIFIL area of operation.

Al-Shar', Christopher Hold Joint News Conference

JN0608155593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] At 1330 today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a brief joint news conference attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies and television networks, by press and media persons, and also by the media team accompanying Mr. Christopher.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' began by saying: The talks held between Christopher and his excellency the president have been good and frank. They covered a wide range of issues, because the Arab-Israeli conflict is a thorny and complex issue.

For his part, the U.S. secretary of state said: As Mr. Faruq al-Shar' has said, we have held good and serious talks that covered a wide range of issues, over a period of time longer than I expected.

Christopher added: Upon my departure from this region, I feel heartened to say that the peace talks have been brought back on track. Moreover, I feel that I am now more optimistic than I was when I came to the region on my tour, in general, and when I began my Syria visit, in particular. There are still many obstacles and problems to address. I will follow up on these problems pursuant to the directives of President Clinton so we may play our complete role as a full partner. Additionally, I will submit a report to President Clinton upon my return home. We will also hold consultations with the second cosponsor of the peace process on the next round of peace talks.

Christopher expressed his thanks to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the foreign minister for the hospitality they accorded to him, and for the good and serious talks he held with them today.

Asked if a date has been set for the next round of peace talks, and if the clashes between the Israeli-sponsored militias and Lebanese national resistance yesterday were touched upon in the talks, Christopher said no date has been set for the next round of peace talks. He added: I will return home, winding up my tour of the region. When I find that all parties are looking forward to a resumption of the talks, we may then be able to set a specific date for the next round of negotiations, after consultations with the second cosponsor of peace talks. As for the talks, they have not touched upon yesterday's incident. We expect the parties to live up to the understanding reached. I would like to reaffirm that today's talks proceeded smoothly, and that they were not influenced by the incident which took place in southern Lebanon yesterday.

Asked why he returned to Damascus and what kind of progress has been made, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: I returned to Damascus to convey to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad some answers to questioned raised by his excellency. These answers were given to me by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. I also returned because there are additional matters I wanted to discuss with him.

Christopher added: There is some progress. There are many difficulties. I do not want to go into detail regarding this progress and those difficulties because this will lead us to the substance of the negotiations and the time is not ripe yet to reveal it, because it is still in its first stages.

Faruq al-Shar', when asked about his evaluation of Christopher's role between Syria and Lebanon, said: I would like to repeat what I have just said, that a solution to the Arab-Israeli struggle is not an easy matter, but, rather, it is a thorny and complicated problem. Therefore, many questions have to be put forward and answers obtained. I would like to add that President Hafiz al-Asad and Secretary Christopher discussed, both today and last Wednesday, the progress—if any exists—on all tracks, because as you are aware we are seeking a comprehensive settlement that must cover all fronts, or to be more exact, the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks, in addition, of course, to the Syrian track.

Asked if progress was realized with the other sides, Christopher said: We have discussed all tracks. I presented to President Hafiz al-Asad a report on my talks in the other capitals. We concentrated on the Syrian-Israeli track. I was trying to play the role of a mediator, as I did yesterday.

Public Israeli Commitment on Withdrawal Sought

JN0608144593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1132 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In the aftermath of his lengthy talks with the Arab sides engaged in the Washington bilateral negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced it was possible to salvage the peace process, and that he is looking forward to an active U.S. role and to tangible progress. Because Damascus is the key leg of his current Middle East tour, and since it is playing a crucial role in the peace process, Mr. Christopher returned to Damascus to hold further talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

As a matter of fact, the entire world community was flabbergasted by the savageness of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, by the killing of innocent civilians, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and the destruction of their homes and towns. Many thought Israel had destroyed, among other things, the Middle East peace process, killed the opportunities for a just settlement, and finished off the efforts the international community has been making for the last two years to achieve peace in this part of the world.

The Arabs could have washed their hands of the futile Washington negotiations, especially since Israel deliberately chose to thwart them over the past 20 months. Israel crowned these thwarting tactics with a savage premeditated aggression on Lebanon. But, in spite of all this, the Arabs once again responded favorably to the appeals of the U.S. Administration, which has renewed its pledges and commitments regarding the role of a full partner and honest broker. It dispatched Secretary of State Christopher to the region for this purpose. This is because the Arabs are the advocates of true peace, and champions of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Given all this, they will not deny the current peace efforts an additional opportunity.

The whole world is now well aware that Israel seeks to destroy peace opportunities, one after another. Hence, it is high time for the international community to mobilize all its potentials to curb Israeli aggressiveness, to make the Tel Aviv rulers comply with the relevant UN resolutions and international laws.

Undoubtedly, the fact that world peoples and governments have condemned the brutal Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon has encouraged the Arabs to give peace efforts a new opportunity, an opportunity which could be the last. Any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict must be based on fair foundations. Such a settlement must ensure the termination of all forms of occupation, injustice, and oppression. For, force and arrogance cannot resolve any problem. Indeed, they exacerbate conflict and make the situation more volatile.

Despite the immense devastation it has sustained, Lebanon has continued to cling to its firm position, which demands Israeli withdrawal from its occupied territories and the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. As for the Palestinian people, they will not halt their intifadah as long as Israel continues to occupy their territories and to reject withdrawal.

With respect to Syria, it has repeatedly announced that it will not concede a single grain of Golan territory, or a single national or pan-Arab right. Furthermore, Syria has repeatedly stated that it is seeking a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace, which must result in the restoration of Arab territories and rights to their owners.

Given the fact that the U.S. initiative was grounded in the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of exchanging territory for peace, it is now high time to implement these resolutions and this principle. Unless Israel commits itself publicly to withdrawal from all occupied territories, there will be no room for discussing peace issues. This is because peace is the antithesis of occupation.

Arabs Said Still 'Skeptical' About Fair U.S. Role

JN0808161693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. role in the peace process is clearly taking a more prominent form, represented by intensified diplomatic action and shuttle tours that use the breaks in the bilateral negotiations to open cracks in the impasse and give the negotiations momentum. They do this by playing the role of a mediator, conveying ideas between the two negotiating sides and presenting, at a later stage, U.S. proposals to help crystallize the settlement formulas.

We must recall, however, that this active U.S. role would not be necessary if it were not for the impasse that the bilateral negotiations are facing as a result of the Israeli stand. The response the Arab parties continue to show toward this U.S. role may be attributed to the Arab conviction, after 10 rounds of bilateral negotiations, that Israel is not sincere about its peaceful intentions. Its insincerity becomes clearer every time it is put to a basic test of intentions, such as ending the occupation and withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories, including the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan, and southern Lebanon. The Arab response to the U.S. role, however, does not mean there should be an end to the caution over Israel employing its influence on the United States and the traditional U.S. bias toward Israel in order to pressure the Arabs into accepting conditions they rejected before and during the 10 rounds of bilateral talks.

Therefore, the Arabs are continually concerned about hearing Washington's emphasis on the fairness and neutrality of its role as a full partner in the peace process and the practice of this fairness and neutrality through official statements and announcements. Washington knows, better than anyone else, that the Arab masses, based on the United States' longstanding bias toward Israel, are still skeptical about the neutral and fair U.S. stand toward the Arabs. Perhaps many, and including us, want to know: What could force Washington to be less biased toward Israel and more neutral and fair now in its stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict? Especially since the Israeli achievements in the June 1967 aggression were made possible by the United States. The United States has also helped Israel, with all kinds of support and aid throughout the years, maintain its occupation of the territories it seized during that aggression. Moreover, the money to finance the immigration and the building of settlements in the occupied territories for hundreds of thousands of Jewish settlers, who would not have come to Israel if it were not for U.S. efforts, comes from the United States. No one denies the legitimacy of this question, however, it can only be answered by putting the integrity and neutrality of the current declared U.S. stand to the test within the framework of the peace process.

Hence, the Arabs are not asking for much from the United States. They are very simply demanding that it comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy, which it supported, and adhere to the bases and principles of the peace process it called for and initiated. Washington's adoption of such a fair and neutral stand cannot, in itself, correct an historical injustice committed against the Arabs to which it contributed.

Without such a stand, however, peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East and the area will remain a hotbed of tension that threatens peace inside the region and beyond.

Therefore, the growth of an active U.S. role within the framework of the negotiating process places a large responsibility on Washington, in terms of what seeds it will plant in this region—the seeds of peace, prosperity, stability, and security in the region or the seeds of tension, instability, and further tragedy in this region and throughout the world?

What is important, in the end, is that while awaiting the crystallization of a more fair and neutral U.S. stand, the Arab stand, expressed by various Arab parties and headed by Syria in terms of the means to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region, will remain constant whether at the bilateral negotiations or when dealing with an active U.S. role. This constant Arab stand is a stand based on right and backed by international legitimacy and the principles of justice, without which peace cannot be achieved in any part of the world.

Army Chief Addresses Military Academy Graduates

JN0708195493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, a new class of officers from Al-Asad Military Engineering Academy was graduated today. Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, deputized for the President.

Al-Shihabi delivered a speech in which he conveyed greetings and love from the president to his sons in the Academy, who are qualified to perform the most sacred national and pan-Arab duties.

Having touched on the Academy's role in supplying our Armed Forces with new elements with high technical expertise, al-Shihabi spoke about the role of al-Asad's Syria in transforming Arab solidarity into a cohesive front and focusing the Arab homeland's attention on real dangers, avoiding side battles that exhaust Arab resources and make them forget about the struggle for existence.

Al-Shihabi said: We have accepted the peace option amid an international commitment to international legitimacy. We are looking forward to regaining our occupied territory and restoring our usurped rights.

In his speech, al-Shihabi quoted what struggler President Hafiz al-Asad said, i.e., that Syria will not concede one inch of its territory or a grain of sand of its soil. In this respect, we will not argue with anybody and will never compromise over principles.

Al-Shihabi spoke about the situation in the region and the Israeli attacks on Lebanon. He said the warmonger in Tel Aviv, whose games have been exposed, can do nothing except carry out acts based on a stupid exercise of power and more tension and escalation to disturb the peace process and continue the policy of expansion and aggression.

After his speech, al-Shihabi awarded the graduates the flag of the academy. The graduates then took their military oath. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Returns From Pakistan

LD0608183893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan [ISA], who as head of a delegation of the ISA has been visiting the Islamic Republic of Pakistan at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart, returned to the homeland today. The esteemed foreign minister was received at Kabul International Airport by senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the charge d'affaires of the embassy of Pakistan in Kabul. During the visit the esteemed foreign minister of the ISA conducted talks on issues of interest with leaders of Pakistan's state and government, the UN secretary general's special envoy, and ambassadors of some countries in Pakistan. Esteemed Hamed Karzai, ISA deputy foreign minister, was also present at the talks.

Foreign Minister To Hold Talks With Tajiks

BK0608125993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Aug 93 p 10

[Text] Peshawar—Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsala has said he would visit Dushanbe on August 10-11 to hold talks with Tajik leaders on the Tajikistan problem.

In an interview with THE NEWS here on Thursday, he said the visit would be undertaken in response to an invitation by Tajikistan's Foreign Minister. He recalled that the Tajik leaders during the recent ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit in Istanbul had raised the issue about Afghanistan's alleged interference in Tajikistan's affairs. He said during his visit to Dushanbe he would reiterate that Kabul had no intention of interfering in Tajikistan's affairs as instability in its neighbourhood would also destabilise Afghanistan. He, however, added that Kabul wanted the Dushanbe government to talk to the Tajik opposition to resolve their internal political problems.

Arsala, who along with his eight-member delegation was on a five-day visit to Pakistan, in reply to a question said Tajik opposition leaders including Mohammad Sharif Himatzade, who was recently expelled from Pakistan, could be granted political asylum in Afghanistan provided they promised not to indulge in politics. He expressed ignorance about the presence of Tajik opposition leaders in his country.

The 51-year old Afghan Foreign Minister, who is flying back to Kabul on Friday, said his ministry hasn't been consulted as yet by either President Rabbani or Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar on granting political asylum to the blind Egyptian preacher Sheikh Omar Rahman once he is extradited by the US govt. He was asked to comment on Hekmatyar's offer of asylum to Sheikh Omar and the Rabbani government's subsequent clarification that no such decision had been taken by Kabul. Regarding the illegal presence of Arabs, Tajiks and other foreigners in Afghanistan in the wake of allegations that some of them may be on the wanted list for their involvement in acts of terrorism, Arsala said his country would allow those who took part in the Jehad to stay there on humanitarian basis until arrangements could be made for their safe and honourable return to their homeland.

More on Planned Visit to Dushanbe

BK0908101593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0953 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Text] Kabul, Aug 9 (AFP)—Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala will fly to Dushanbe Tuesday [10 August] to encourage Tajik leaders to hold peace talks with the country's Islamic opposition and end the spiralling conflict along the Afghan-Tajik border, a spokesman said Monday.

"Arsala will hold talks with the Tajik foreign minister and other high-ranking officials, and with delegations from the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan," the foreign ministry spokesman said.

He said one of the main points to be put forward by the Afghan delegation will be that the Tajik government should recognise the opponent parties and start negotiations with them.

"Until now there has been no move by the Tajiks in this direction but we hope as a result of this visit such talks should start soon," the spokesman noted.

Intermittent Russian bombardment of Afghan border villages still continues, he said. For more than a month Russian troops guarding the Tajik border have been shelling civilians on the Afghan side of the Amu Darya as punishment for Afghan involvement in the Tajik crisis.

Arsala is to fly to Dushanbe Tuesday morning for two days of bilateral and multi-lateral talks with the Tajiks, Russians and Uzbeks.

The Tajik opponent forces, mainly Islamic rebels, who have been battling the Russian-backed neo-communist regime based in Dushanbe since late last year, are alleged to receive military support from Afghan mujahedeen groups based near the Amu Darya River, which forms the Afghan-Tajik boundary.

The foreign minister met with U.N. secretary general's envoy for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris, who flew into Kabul Monday morning for discussions about the forthcoming general elections, said a spokesman for the state news agency BAKHTAR.

Meanwhile, more than 150 Kabul University staff convened a special meeting Monday morning in the battle-scarred dean's office to protest the Russian bombardments.

"We condemn this Russian aggression which is a flagrant violation of international law, and call on the Russian troops to withdraw completely from Tajikistan," said Professor Sayyad Mohammad Mangal of the Faculty of Economics.

He also condemned the "indifference" of the United Nations and the world community in general, asking them to take steps to force the Russians to stop their regional interference.

"The United Nations and the world community have not shown the proper interest on the problems between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and the continuing aggression of the Russians," Mangal stated.

He asked the Russians to remember their 10-year military occupation of Afghanistan which ended with the withdrawal of the Red Army in February 1989, and suggested they not forget this lesson.

India

Bomb Blast Kills Southern State Legislator

BK0708093893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh a Telgu Desam MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr. P. Siva Reddy, was killed in a bomb blast in Hyderabad city today. Another person was also killed on the spot. Police sources told our Hyderabad correspondent Shujat Ali a short while ago that one person, who reportedly threw the bomb, has been arrested. Mr. Reddy was representing Jammalamudugu constituency in Cuddapa District in the assembly. It may be recalled yesterday that the entire opposition demanded that the speaker, Mr. C. Baggarao, direct the government to provide more security and protection to Mr. Siva Reddy who was reportedly getting the threat calls.

Bomb Blast at Right Wing Party Office Kills 9

BK0808124493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] In Madras a powerful bomb blast at the headquarters of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [Right wing Hindu militant party] has claimed nine lives. Among the victims are two women. Our correspondent, quoting police authorities, reports that seven persons were also injured as a major portion of the two-story building was torn apart in the explosion at 1345 this afternoon. Many more are feared trapped in the debris. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] vice president, Mr. Janakrishna Murthy, who visited the explosion site, demanded a high-level inquiry by the state and central agencies to identify the culprits.

Twenty Killed in Suspected NSCN Attack in Manipur

BK0708080093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] In Manipur, 20 persons were killed and 30 others seriously injured when suspected members of the banned NSCN [National Socialist Council of Nagaland] opened fire at the villagers in (Tinkpaikulen) and (Chongloykulen) in (Senapati) District early this morning. An agency report quoting official sources said in Imphal that the culprits set ablaze 55 houses before opening fire at the fleeing villagers.

Romanian Parliamentary Delegation Visits

'More Interaction' Needed

BK0708054093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] A parliamentary delegation from Romania met the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, today. It was led by the vice president of the Romanian Senate, Mr. Taracila. Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Sharma said India is one of the largest democracies in the world. It has long traditions of democratic government. The members of the Romanian delegation said their country was keen on strengthening its bilateral relations further in all possible manner.

The delegation also met the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia. Both sides felt there should be more interaction between the two nations.

Legislative Ties Discussed

AU0708163993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1406 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Delhi ROMPRES 7/8/1993— India's President Shankar Dayal Sharma received Friday, August 6, a delegation of Romania's Parliament, led by Doru Ioan Taracila. Aspects were tackled regarding the stage and prospects of the ties between the two countries, including the ones between the legislative bodies.

It was underlined that direct contacts at the top—heads of states and governments, parliament leaders—could have an important contribution. The head of the Romanian delegation underscored that it was necessary that interviews and talks be scheduled aimed to boost initiatives and actions intended to enlarge the cooperation between Romania and India.

The Romanian parliamentary delegation conducted talks with the presidents of the two houses of parliament, with the minister for the liaison with the legislative bodies, with the state minister of parliamentary affairs, with representatives of business circles, the many MPs who attended a dinner given to the honour of the Romanian delegation by Mrs. Najma Heptula [spelling as received], vice- president of the Senate.

In most opinions the parliaments of the two countries had to play an ever larger role in the development of Romanian-Indian links. The agenda of the visit by the Romanian delegation to India also includes talks with the Indian premier, the Senate's president, India's vice-(?president).

Prime Minister Receives Delegates

BK0808055293 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] The visiting Romanian parliamentary delegation met the prime minister in New Delhi today. The nine-member delegation is led by Mr. Taracila, vice president of the Romanian Senate.

The delegation members held discussions with the prime minister on the issues of mutual interest. They evinced keen interest on the functioning of the Indian parliamentary system.

Iran

Rafsanjani's New Cabinet Selections Announced

LD0808084093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program Network in Persian 0755 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Dear friends and listeners of the second channel of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the radio program of the Islamic consultative Majles. Allow me to mention the list of seven new ministers who were presented to the Majles by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani:

1. Mr. Akbar Torkan, candidate for the Ministry of Roads and Transport.

2. Mr. Mohammad Foruzandeh, candidate for the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

3. Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, candidate for the Ministry of Interior.

4. Mr. 'Abbas Ahmad-Akhundi, candidate for Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

5. Mr. Hashemi-Golpayegani, candidate for Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

6. Mr. Al-e Eshaq, candidate for the Ministry of Commerce.

7. Mr. 'Ali Reza Marandi, candidate for the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education.

It is worth mentioning that the rest of the previous ministers have been introduced to remain in their posts.

Jannati Delivers Tehran Friday Prayer Sermons

LD0608105693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The magnificent Friday prayer rites have taken place simultaneously throughout the country. In Tehran, masses of worshippers attended the prayers, which were led by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati.

In his sermons, the provisional Tehran Friday prayer leader called for piety and religious behavior. He then referred to the recent visit of the eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution [Khamene'i] to East Azerbaijan province. He described the unprecedented welcome that the people of that province, known for their excellent treatment of heroes, gave to the eminent leader as an indication of the people's affection and their firm bonds with Islam, the revolution, the leadership, and the velayat.

The provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran continued his sermons by referring to the recent presidential confirmation ceremonies, in which the eminent leader paid tribute to the continuing efforts of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to promote religion and to serve the revolution. Ayatollah Jannati also attached great value to the eminent leader's guidelines concerning the economy and the administration. He said: Those remarks were indeed an expression of the people's wishes.

He emphasized the issue of economic growth, stating: An economic system can be called Islamic when it serves the people, and when it continuously narrows the gap between the rich and the poor.

Furthermore, Ayatollah Jannati referred to his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's highly important admonitions concerning the selection of suitable, responsible, and pious officials and administrators. He went on to stress the grave responsibility of the president in selecting the ministers, and the important responsibility of the Majles in voting for them.

Ayatollah Jannati stressed the need to confront offenders, from the highest to the lowest ranks and positions. He said: Officials must be aware that, if they seek to satisfy God and the people, they must respect the people's wishes.

The provisional Tehran Friday prayer leader concluded his sermons by emphasizing the need to help the oppressed people of Lebanon, who lost their loved ones during a week of bombardment by the Zionist regime. He also spoke about issues relating to the Islamic world and condemned all aggressive moves against Muslims in various parts of the world.

Second Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0608142793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Second Friday prayer sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 6 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In recent days there have been many occasions which cannot be mentioned separately in the second sermon. I will refer to them summarily.

Inside the country there were issues that gladdened us, such as the esteemed leader's visit to Azerbaijan, which is difficult to describe. No one except those who were involved and who saw the situation closely could understand. Television could not show what was really happening—it had to be felt. The unbelievable enthusiasm and devotion of the people was overwhelming for the enemies because they are not familiar with the people. It was even difficult for our people and our friends to believe. [passage omitted]

God has given Islam such maneuvering power. We have no need for military maneuvers, we do not need to spend money. Such popularity could not be achieved with any amount of expenditure; those hearts could not captured like that. [passage omitted]

I congratulate Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president, on all the affection the people and the authorities have for him, for which he should be very thankful to God . I say to him, however: Yours is the heaviest load. It is not just a matter of selecting ministers. Your responsibility reaches all the way down to the lower echelons, where if an offense is committed and you are able to prevent it, you must do so. Your powerful inspectors should be present everywhere. Every action must be watched as far as possible. The people judge you by the actions of government officers. If a government employee behaves badly, God forbid, they will regard you unfavorably, and if he behaves correctly they will regard you well. [passage omitted] It is these officials who fight against the spread of administrative and financial corruption. It is they who deal with people within a suitable ethical framework, and who work hard and dutifully without expecting anything, as they merely seek God's satisfaction. If our officials and statesmen seek to satisfy the people and God, and if they want to avoid problems on a daily basis, then they must employ these loved ones to fill post as much as possible. These dear ones displayed their real character during the eight years of the war. They still have the same preparedness, and if called upon,they will appear on any scene.

Regarding the task of encouraging virtue and prohibiting vice, it is these individuals who take steps forward. While carrying out this task, how many times have these individuals been beaten up by the perpetrators of vice, and how many of them have even been killed merely for fulfilling their duties? These officials operate as if their lives and possessions are of no value when compared to the fulfillment of their divine obligations. These people must be praised, and not be fired as ministries try to cut down on manpower. How upset I was when I asked an official to do something for a few Hezbollah youths, and he refused. He said that the intention was to cut the size of the staff. Why do you not fire the others? Instead of those who work so selflessly, why do you not fire the others who create headaches for people every day, and who give you a bad name and place you in problematic situations? Fire them and not those who work so selflessly. Even if some of these individuals are surplus—apart from those who are efficient, useful, and functional—you should still keep them for the sake of God, as it will ultimately benefit you. Do not always reserve your regard merely for functional specialization, even though there are many specialists among these people. [passage omitted] I would like to say a few brief sentences about Lebanon. Our beloved ones in Lebanon have been killed. The sorrow is deep. The bombardments continued for a whole week, leaving 500,000 homeless, and leaving many injured or martyred. You have heard about it all. I only want to say that they deserve help, and it is to be hoped that the Islamic nations and states will help them. God willing, a bank account will soon be opened in our country to accept donations for these people.

The other issue concerns Tajikistan and Armenia. We condemn all aggression against Islamic territories, as our dear leader and our president have done. The religious leaders of Armenians living in this country obeyed the eminent leader and condemned the Armenian Government. These aggressive moves are condemned by the world of Islam, and they should be stopped. Russia should think of its experience in Afghanistan before intervening in another area. [passage omitted]

Nateq-Nuri Assails UN Secretary General in Majles Speech

LD0808140093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran 0532 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Remarks by Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri at Majles session in Tehran on 8 August]

[Text] It is necessary to point out and to make several comments about the hostile stance taken by the representative of America, the great Satan, in the United Nations against the order of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As you know, the U.S. UN representative, acting as the head of the Security Council, a position which rotates, has made hostile remarks against the Islamic Republic of Iran. She has placed countries in a new division and has said some countries have rational and appropriate behavior. Here the measure of rationality and irrationality is themselves [as heard]. She has said some countries, like Iran, are offenders. Offenders against and violators of human rights and international law. She has also said that some countries, such as those of the eastern bloc, are the defeated.

It is interesting that this new stance and this enmity take place from a platform defending human rights, under the pretext of a new name and of a rational and internationally appropriate behavior. This political pose is taken by a government and by a representative from a government which has the worst record in support of aggressors and violators of human rights, and which is itself the worst international lone rider in violating human rights. Can you see a government more aggressive and malicious than Israel? And which government is supporting Israel more than anyone else? Is any one helping Israel at a high level more than the great Satan, America, is?

During the eight years of war that were imposed on us, particularly in the last few years, the West and America explicitly and implicitly supported and strengthened the Baghdad regime against us. Throughout its history, and in particular during the war, the hand of America is clearly evident in all these crimes. Was it not a violation of human rights—we have repeated this and the world has been indifferent—when our passenger airplane was attacked? Was it not a violation of human rights? Has not this revealed for the world the ugly face of America, which is now speaking as a supporter of human rights and naming Iran as a violating government?

Is not the hand of America evident in the massacre in the Balkans and Bosnia-Herzegovina and in support of the Serbs? Crimes that vindicated criminals of the Middle Ages. Is not the hand of America evident in the amount of time wasted by international organizations; time wasted in accordance with the orders of the great Satan. In the crisis, and in deviations and crimes committed throughout the world, it is possible to see the hand of America over it, in it, or supporting it. These crises in international affairs are indicators of the hegemony and expansionism of the great Satan.

Here I have repeatedly—once or twice—told the UN secretary general and management, on behalf of our colleagues—and these are the words of our heart—if you do not have the ability and capability to manage, it would be more respectable for you to leave. At least your name will remain in history. It should not be that during your management an event should take place that has not occurred during the history of United Nations or under any previous managements. Under which UN secretary general, has the head of the UN Security Council—which should have a just and unbiased position in management—taken such a stand against governments and nations, and when has it been so hostile? It is during your management that the head of the UN Security Council has become daring enough to speak such nonsense. Your silence against such acts is inexcusable.

Anyway, while condemning the nonsense spoken by the American representative in the UN security council, we say to the United Nations, the secretary general, all the international organizations and America itself: These acts will fail to deviate us from the way, the principles, and values, which the imam established and which the leadership is strengthening and following and for which we have so far come. We shall not be set back a step from this path. On the contrary it will make us more determined and more serious in our path and work, and it indicates that we are right. Your insistence makes us more determined in insisting on our rights. It shows and reveals your ugly face as being even uglier. In a way the enemy can be a source of good, for it might awaken other nations and governments, which might have placed some trust in the United Nations and its high level officials. It might make them understand that it is not possible to rely on such places, and that nations should stand on their own feet and solve their own problems through unity.

'Severe Protest' of U.S. Warship Activity Issued

LD0608144393 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 6, IRNA—Iran's severe protest to the illegal acts of the U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman was circulated as a Security Council document Thursday.

Iran's U.N. envoy Kamal Kharrazi, in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, presented a copy of a note verbale by Iran dated June 17 to the U.S. Department of State from the interests section of the Islamic Republic of Iran at Pakistan's Embassy in Washington.

According to the letter, four times from January 28 to February 8 this year the U.S. warships had unwarrantedly warned the Iranian helicopters over the Sea of Oman against the performance of their routine duties.

Two of the said helicopters belonged to the National Iranian Oil Company and were at that time operating between Kharg Island of Iran and Foruzan oil platform at the Persian Gulf in the performance of their routine missions.

Commentary on Implications of Christopher Visit

NC0708121893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Station commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The five-day visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East concluded yesterday. This visit began in Egypt, ended in Syria, and included Palestine and Jordan. During this visit the U.S. Secretary of State met with Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli officials over the resumption of the so-called Washington peace talks. Even though Christopher announced to correspondents at a press conference in Damascus that he was more optimistic about the peace talks than he was before, political observers believe that the peace process and its objectives are in conflict with the wishes of most people in the region, and therefore faces a plethora of problems. They also believe that, during his latest trip, Christopher has not gained anything except convincing the sides involved to continue the talks.

During this visit, the Zionist regime's officials—in accordance with their usual policy—once again violated international regulations and informed the U.S. secretary of state that the closer Syria gets to Israel the further its regime will withdraw from the territory of the Golan Heights.

This Camp David-style proposal, which completely ignores Security Council Resolution 242, means that Israel wishes to use its withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a decisive lever in Syrian foreign policy and in its union or coalition on the regional or international level.

Similarly, during Christopher's visit the Zionist regime's officials announced their willingness to delegate autonomy to the Gaza Strip. Even though saner counsels dictate that withdrawal from even one inch of Palestinian territory should be considered positive—of course, it should be on the condition that no privileges are granted to the despotic Zionists in the remaining occupied areas—political observers believe that accepting this plan would be an extremely dangerous act of adventurism for the Palestinians.

The Gaza Strip is currently the center of Islamism in occupied Palestine, and is almost free of nationalist and leftist forces. Delegating this area to the PLO or to those who agree with their policies will only sow discord among the Palestinians. Accepting autonomy in the Gaza strip—even from the PLO's vantage point, which is to set up a Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—would be tantamount to closing the path of return and would force the acceptance of the compromising trend in which the United States and Israel are the main players.

Political observers believe that even though the Arab governments and the Zionist regime initiated the peace process a year and one half ago, instead of making progress, the talks are facing opposition from the people of the region and no clear breakthrough has been attained.

In the past few days, coincident with Christopher's visit to the region, the Palestinian strugglers carried out two bold attacks and killed three Israeli soldiers. The heightening of anti-Zionist operations in the occupied Palestinian territories, the general strike by the oppressed people of this land to protest Christopher's visit, and the disgraceful Arab-Israeli talks indicate that the resistant Palestinian people are opposed to such a compromise.

Kurdish 'Insurgents' Warned of 'Decisive Response'

NC0808092293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] A spokesman of our Foreign Ministry announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran will deliver a decisive response—as it has in the past—to all kinds of counterrevolutionary provocations from inside Iraqi territory aimed at creating insecurity and disruptions for the border residents.

In an interview, he elaborated that the pursuit of insurgents in the country's border areas and, on rare occasions, in northern parts of Iraq is done to maintain the security of the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to IRNA, the Foreign Ministry spokesman commented on the concern expressed by the French Foreign Ministry regarding Iranian forces' infiltration of northern Iraqi borders. The spokesman said: A group of insurgents and terrorist agents had infiltrated our country, especially in the northern areas, over the past few months and had made life unsafe for the residents of these areas.

Following these provocations, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran took measures to pursue and crush the insurgents to safeguard the security of the borders and to ensure peace for the people. All such counterrevolutionary provocations from inside Iraqi territory will be responded to decisively.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry described such incidents as rare, and said that the situation in the region was calm and normal. He refuted the claims of some news agencies that Iran has prevented the entry of Iraqi refugees and recalled that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always taken a humanitarian approach to refugees.

Iraq Incursion To 'Preserve Border Security'

LD0808100593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has described the Iranian forces' incursion into Iraq's northern borders as a measure designed to preserve border security and to secure stability for the population in border regions. He stressed that Iran will respond forcefully and firmly to any counterrevolutionary moves which emanate from Iraqi territory and which are aimed at causing disorder and harming citizens.

Regarding the anxiety expressed by some foreign sources at these operations, the spokesman for the Islamic Foreign Ministry said: A collection of riffraff agents and terrorists infiltrated the country over the last five months through Iraq's northern border in an attempt to undermine the security of the border regions' population and to put their lives in danger. This forced the Iranian forces to pursue those agents and terrorists inside Iraqi territory. The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said that such incidents are rare and that conditions in the region are calm and normal. He refuted reports by some news sources that Iran is preventing displaced Iraqi citizens from entering its territory, asserting that the Islamic Republic deals with those displaced people in a humanitarian way.

Further on Cross-Border Raid

LD0808165393 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmud Mohammadi here Saturday [7 August] said that the recent pursuit of bandits in northern Iraq by the Iranian forces was aimed at maintaining security of the borders of the Islamic Republic.

Commenting on the concern expressed by the French Foreign Ministry on penetration of Iranian forces into northern Iraq, Mohammadi said that a group of bandits and terrorists had infiltrated into the Iranian territory over the past few months disturbing the border dwellers in the northern part of Iran-Iraq border. To provide security and tranquility at the borders, the Iranian troops forced the bandits out of the country and they will decisively counter any counterrevolutionary moves carried out from inside Iraq aimed at creating insecurity in border regions, he told IRNA.

Describing the situation in the area as "mainly calm and normal," he said that such incidents happen on rare occasions.

On reports published by certain Arab media that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz is to visit Tehran, the spokesman noted that the two countries in principle have agreed to continue to exchange delegations with the aim to follow up the agreements already reached between them.

As for allegations printed by the French daily "LE FIGARO" that Iran intends to sell oil to Serbia, Mohammadi termed them as "biased" and "hostile."

He stressed that certain Western circles are worried that Iran ardently supports the oppressed Bosnian people and therefore constantly tries to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic by launching "biased and fabricated" propaganda and thus covering up their role in the ruthless Serbian crimes.

Asked to comment on the U.S. condition for air raids on the Serbian positions by NATO forces, Mohammadi said the oppressed Bosnian Muslims are brave enough to suppress the aggressors themselves once the existing barricades on the way to dispatch weapons to Bosnia are lifted. Under the status quo, he added, any military action by others must be carried out without any excuse or procrastination which should be aimed at reinforcement of the defensive power of the Bosnian people.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the resignation of the U.S. authorities in charge of the Bosnian affairs in the State Department speaks of the West's double standards towards Bosnia.

He further criticized the U.S. for its dictatorial and hegemonistic approach in international forums, adding that the U.S. abuse of the United Nations forum would weaken the international organization.

As for the Western media's propaganda on destruction of an abandoned Bahai cemetery in Tehran, he noted that the same measure had been adopted in case of deserted Muslim cemeteries located in populated areas due to health and urban development reasons.

Official on 'Deplorable' Conditions in South Iraq

LD0808110793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The Interior Ministry director general for alien's affairs [Ahmad Hoseyni], in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, referred to the pressures the Iraqi regime exerts on refugees in the southern region of that country, and termed the situation facing the Muslim inhabitants of the region as deplorable. He called on the world community to react vis-a-vis the Iraqi regime's attacks against the inhabitants of the region.

He said: So far, 4,500 Iraqi refugees have entered the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran's under pressure from the Iraqi regime, and we envisage that that number will grow in the near future. [passage omitted] He denied that there are 150,000 refugees at the northern borders of Iran. He said: So far, not a single refugee has entered Iranian territory through those borders.

Tehran Confirms Delivery of Second Submarine From Moscow

NC0808080093 Paris AFP in English 0718 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug 8 (AFP)—Iran has taken delivery of the second of three submarines it bought from Russia, Navy Commander 'Ali Shamkhani confirmed on Sunday.

Shamkhani said the vessel, which arrived in the southern port of Bandar-e 'Abbas on Thursday, would boost the Navy's defense capability, according to Iranian newspapers.

Tehran bought from Moscow three Kilo-class conventional submarines equipped with torpedoes. The first was delivered in November.

In Washington, the commander of the U.S. submarine force in the Atlantic, Vice Admiral Henry Childs, said Wednesday that the Iranian submarines pose a potential threat to U.S. interests in the Gulf.

He said Arab Gulf states were also concerned about the development.

Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

LD0708120093 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Sulayman Majid al-Shahin arrived here Saturday on an official visit and was greeted by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival, the Kuwaiti official expressed satisfaction with the growing relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait.

He said he was in Tehran for talks on expanding ties between the two countries.

Referring to the recent tour of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of some regional countries including Kuwait, Shahin said the visit provided a good opportunity for talks aimed at improving Iran-Kuwait relations.

The Kuwaiti official stressed that officials of the two countries were determined to broaden not only bilateral ties but also relations between Iran and Persian Gulf Arab states.

Kuwait To Redress 'Past Position'

LD0808175593 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, August 8, IRNA—The visiting Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin said here Sunday that his country was for sincere relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and "this is to compensate for our past position towards Iran."

Kuwait sided with Iraq and rendered huge financial support to that country during the Iraqi war against Iran (1980-1988).

In a meeting with the First Vice-President Hasan Habibi, the Kuwaiti official said that maintaining of the security in the Persian Gulf was the task of the regional states and that the Islamic Republic of Iran is able to assume a bigger role in this regard.

The events in the past indicated that the Islamic Republic of Iran stuck to its principles "and this is a source of hope and confidence for us and all the regional states," Shahin said.

He described Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's government as a great stumbling block to the security and stability in the Persian Gulf region.

Habibi in response expressed satisfaction with the improvement in Tehran-Kuwait relations and said that Iran always valued its Islamic principles and never considered its short term interests.

Habibi said, "we have always been concerned about the security of the region as well as the interests of Muslim nations and believe that the Muslim nations will be able to build a great economic and political community through stability in the region and establishment of friendly relations."

"We should take advantage of the past experiences," Habibi said, "and we should not allow foreigners to intefere in the affairs of the Persian Gulf region."

Habibi said the broad relations between Tehran and some other states in the region show that such friendly relations are possible with the all countries.

Meanwhile, Shahin held a second round of talks with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati later in the day for further consultations in the way of implementation of agreements already reached between the two countries in various areas. He arrived in Tehran on Saturday and was to leave Tehran today [8 August].

Pakistan

Forces on 'Red Alert' To Head Off Sabotage

BK0608125293 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Sukkar, Aug 5—Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has issued special instructions to various law enforcing agencies for the prevention of sabotage activities in the country as they have been put on 'red alert'.

According to reliable sources, terrorists trained by both RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] and Mosad, have entered into Pakistan from Rajisthan and have begun subversive activities to inflict unrest and turmoil in Punjab. It's learnt that India, through such activities in Pakistan, intends to divert Pak attention from the Kashmir issue.

Kausar Niazi Rejoins PPP; Bhutto Outlines Policies

BK0808164293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Aug 93

[Text] PPP's [Pakistan People's Party's] cochairperson Ms. Benazir Bhutto has said her party believes in neat and clean politics and service to the people. She was speaking at a reception in Lahore this evening where Maulana Kausar Niazi announced rejoining the party. Welcoming his announcement, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the party welcomes all those who are ready to abide by party manifesto and follow the decisions of its leadership. She hoped the people will massively vote the PPP in the forthcoming general election.

Highlighting the salient features of the party's election program, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said if returned to power, PPP will work to improve the economic situation; [words indistinct] to do away with the Eighth Constitutional Amendment; create balance of power between the president, the prime minister, and the leader of the opposition at parliament; amend the Political Parties Act to check and discourage floor-crossing; boost agricultural production; and for taking safeguards [for] the rights of [words indistinct]. Maulana Kausar Niazi, while announcing the rejoining the party, praised Ms. Benazir Bhutto's struggle for democracy.

Election Commission Rules on Dates

BK0708150293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 7 Aug 93

[Text] Elections to the national and provincial assemblies will be held on separate dates. According to a press release of the Election Commission, the proposition of holding general elections to the national and provincial assemblies on one and the same day remains under active consideration of the commission. However, in the absence of any consensus between the major political parties, the commission has unanimously agreed to adhere to the dates fixed in the dissolution order passed by the president of Pakistan and decided accordingly.

The Election Commission also imposed a complete ban on the display of cloth banners and hoardings of all sizes, large posters exceeding the size of 3 square feet, hoisting of party flags on public buildings, public places, and electric and telephone polls by candidates during their campaign for election to the national and provincial assemblies. The Election Commission has imposed the ban in exercise of powers conferred on it by Article 218-3 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, read with Section 103 of the Representation of the People Act 1976, with immediate effect and until culmination of the process of general elections.